AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

Designed to improve the Farmer, the Planter, and the Gardener.

AGRICULTURE IS THE MOST HEALTHY, THE MOST USEFUL, AND THE MOST NOBLE EMPLOYMENT OF MAN.—WASHINGTON.

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☞ *FOR PROSPECTUS, TERMS, &c.,* SEE LAST PAGE.

AGRICULTURE IN MINNESOTA.

We have received a visit from a resident of St. Anthony, in this new territory, and gleaned from him the following information concerning its climate, soil, and productions. St. Anthony's Falls have long been known to geographers as upon the upper waters of the Mississippi, far beyond the outskirts of civilization. It was dream-land to us when a school-boy, a quarter of a century ago, and we never expected to see a citizen of a village of thousands of inhabitants, located within the roar of its waters. Already the water is partially appropriated, and is driving saw-mills and grist-mills, turning out lumber, and meal, and flour for the inhabitants of a rising State. It was not till 1849 that this territory was organized, and yet it has already a large population, principally from New-England, who are planting there the Puritan institutions of the East. St. Anthony has six organized churches, and the university of the State has been located at this place. Congress appropriated twenty thousand acres of land for its support. A building has been erected by private subscription for school purposes, which it is expected will grow into a college.

The village is about in the latitude of northern Vermont, and the extremes of cold are as great as in New-England, but the atmosphere is more dry, and more favorable to health. Colds are not so prevalent, and the climate is favorable to all affections of the lungs. The thermometer one morning the last winter stood at thirty-five degrees below zero. In summer it goes up to over ninety.

The spring comes on very rapidly, and vegetation is more forward than in the same latitude in the east. The soil is a sandy loam, resting upon lime-rock. This rock underlies the whole region for hundreds of miles north and south, and may be found below the surface, from one, to one hundred feet. On the banks of the river, it crops out, presenting in some places a perpendicular face, in others, an alternation of rock and soil, the soil every where being covered with grass to the water's edge. Sand and vegetable matter enter largely into the composition of the soil, so that it immediately feels the influence of the sun, and brings forward vegetation very rapidly. The surface soil is from one to three feet deep. The river is full of islands, which are generally covered with wood. The prevailing timber upon the islands is cottonwood, elm, sugar-maple, bass-wood, and walnut. Back from the river the oak-openings are almost he only appearance of timber. These oaks are scattered about upon the prairies, appearing more like an orchard than any feature in our landscape. A characteristic feature of Minnesota is its beautiful lakes. These are large and numerous, perfectly clear, apparently fed with living springs, and abounding with fish. The white fish and lake trout are among them.

The emigrants coming from the East, follow the habits in which they have been educated, and put in a crop of corn and potatoes when they first break up the soil. Wheat-growing, to which both soil and climate are admirably adapted, follows later. Large quantities are now raised of the usual farm crop, but so great is the tide of immigration pouring into the territory, that they do not supply the wants of the population. Large quantities of grain and meat are brought up the river. Besides salt provisions, large numbers of beef cattle are brought up for slaughtering. At all the landings upon the river, farm products bear a high price, so that the farmer can oftentimes pay for his farm in a single season.

The immigrants are principally men of small means, with their fortunes invested in their persons. The first effort of the new citizen is to get him a home. If he has any capital, he buys his quarter section of 160 acres or more, and pays for it. If destitute of capital, he takes from the land office a preëmption right for a quarter of a section, which secures him possession for one year. Even if he does not pay for his land the first year, the government is very lenient toward the first settler upon the soil, and he is seldom disturbed without an equivalent for all his improvements. The best lands are often all bought up by speculators in large quantities, and this is a great disadvantage to the actual settler. It gives him the second choice of the lands, and often prevents him from having neighbors. Those who arrive after him will prefer to go further inland, and buy at government prices, rather than buy of the speculators.

When the settler has possession of his land, he puts up a log house, the best his means afford. The logs are hewn upon two sides, and the crevices are stopped with sticks and mud. The chimney is made of stone, if that article is convenient, if not, the mud plaster supplies its place. Glass can be had in the villages, and a very few windows generally satisfy the settler for the first season.

Barns are very scarce. Hovels take their place, and as the prairie grass is very abundant, and to be had for the cutting; it is piled upon and around the hovels so as to make a very comfortable shelter for the stock. The first winter is usually spent in getting out rails and fencing stuff, to enclose the ground he purposes to cultivate the next season. It is several years, usually, before the whole farm gets enclosed. The soil yields abundantly without manure. Three hundred bushels of potatoes are often raised to the acre, and as yet the rot has not troubled them. Pink-eyes, Irish greys, and the Chewangos are common varieties. Wheat, corn, and oats yield abundantly.

The unenclosed prairie is the pasture ground for all the stock of the settlement. As all the calves are raised, it is an easy matter to call the cows home to their stalls, by keeping the calves in the hovels through the first season. Many of the cows are furnished with bells so that they are easily reclaimed by their owners. The young stock wander off, and are often not seen by their owners for months. The sight of these large herds, feeding upon the luxuriant prairie, is one of the richest in Nature. It carries one back to the patriarchal age, when men numbered their flocks and herds by hundreds and thousands.

Some attention is already paid to fruit growing, and a nursery agent has established himself near St. Anthony. He is furnished with his stock from nurseries in Iowa, and sells at prices not very much in advance of the East. Young trees are set out, but not many of them are in bearing condition.

Wild fruits are abundant, especially upon the islands in the river.

A plum resembling the Damson is very common; grapes, crab apples, thimble berries, and raspberries are found in many localities. The crab apples are large, but are not improved in quality by their size. The wild grapes are not of better quality than those found with us.

To the New-Englander, Minnesota presents an inviting home, if he must leave his native soil. He will find there a more healthy climate than he leaves behind him, and a virgin soil yielding abundant crops. But it will be many years before he can surround himself with the many social comforts and privileges of the East. Of what avail is it that he gains a superfluity of the raw materials of comfort for his body, if he must live years in a log house, and be deprived of the school and meeting-house—those land marks of New-England? Why seek a richer soil when the wealth of his own soil, amid the institutions dearest to his heart, is not yet half developed? The industrious man, with a good house and a few acres around him, may support himself and family in comfort where he now is, ordinarily, with more ease than to seek a new home in the West. But the Yankee must move. Necessity is laid upon him to push off into the wilderness, and if he will leave us, we can only say to him, "Minnesota is a goodly land. Go up and possess it."

ON FEEDING POULTRY.

We take the following article on feeding from the *Poultry Chronicle*. What the writer says in respect to Indian corn and rice, may answer for England, but long experience in this country proves them to be among the best kinds of feed we can give to our poultry.

In August, one year, we shut up a lot of hens to fat, in a roomy stable with a plank floor. We gave them nothing but Indian corn for their food, and as much of it as they pleased to eat. We also gave them clean, fresh water in abundance daily, and fresh gravel. In three weeks we killed the lot, and saving that they were a little too fat, we never eat better poultry. The hens were full of eggs. Had they been kept one week longer, we think they would have laid abundantly; still, for fatting and laying, we would prefer to let the hens run at large. The meat is leaner, more juicy and tender for it. Indian corn is better cracked than fed whole; and it is very well to mix oats, barley, buckwheat, and sunflower seed with it. Rye, wheat, and rice are very good, but generally more expensive with us than the other kinds of grain mentioned. We like the idea as suggested by the writer of scattering the grain well over the ground, so that it will take some time for the fowls to pick it up, and they cannot then gorge themselves to their injury.

If you go to a physician to consult him for a disordered stomach, he inquires your habits, and particularly your diet, and manner of eating. From defects in these, he finds the origin of your disease, and for its cure he inculcates a new and better system. When men lived in a state of nature, ailments were less numerous; and so it is with poultry. In a natural state, they have few diseases; with us they have many, because we have forced them into an unnatural state of life. We would then trace them to bad feeding, and would also, by plain suggestions, point out a cure.

Pheasants, wild fowl, and poultry, where they are wild, as in India, are always healthy, and the scars and seams, well known to all those who are in the habit of plucking them, testify to the condition that enables them to recover from the most serious wounds. Our feeding, then, should most resemble that of wild bird, if we would seek the same result both in condition and feather. We should also seek to give the same food as the bird would find if left to its own resources.

The faults of modern feeding are, giving meat—feeding out of vessels of any description—throwing down large heaps of food, irregularly—and too often the substitution of any thing that is cheap for that which is wholesome.

Meat is an unnatural food for poultry. It was extensively given during the Cochin mania, in order to make weight; and many are the buyers who have paid from ten to twenty pounds each for very heavy hens, so unnaturally fatted by this process, that they could never lay a perfect egg, and numbers died in the attempt. A fowl is not provided with digestive organs for meat.

In a state of nature, fowls run over a great extent of ground before they get a crop-full. They pick up food grain by grain, and with it small pieces of dirt, blades of grass, and other things, that all help digestion. What, then, can be said of the various feeders in use? Placed before the fowls filled with barley, the birds do in five minutes that which should be the work of two hours; they eat a greedy fill, and suffering from unnatural repletion, they have recourse to drink. The corn swells in the crop, and the sufferers, instead of walking cheerfully about, hide in corners, and squat about to the detriment of their health. This applies to the equally bad practice of throwing down the food in heaps.

Irregularity.—In a natural state at break of day, all birds are in search of food, and they find it. What an evil it is, then, for them to be fed one day at seven, next day at nine, and sometimes not till mid-day. A still greater evil is, to endeavor to make up for previous neglect by an extra quantity.

Among the improper food given to fowls we include two rather popular articles, viz., Indian corn and rice. We can only add, we have tried both; the former makes fowls extremely fat, but it makes no flesh. We consider the latter worthless, as we have tried it to our cost; and we have no hesitation in saying, no good is ever done either in condition or feather, when the birds are fed with it.

Having disposed of our complaints, we will now endeavor to point out a better plan for general feeding, not with a view to fatting or extra condition, but to keep a yard in really good plight.

They must be out at daybreak, and should be fed directly with oatmeal slaked, and thrown down to them. Let it be so mixed, that when cast down, it will crumble. As soon as they cease to run after it, leave off feeding. At midday, give some whole corn, wheat is best, but throw it as far, and scatter it as much as you can—throw it among the grass; you will see the fowls spreading about in a natural way, and seeking the stray grains. In the afternoon, feed again as in the morning. Our system then is, regular feeding three times per day, and no food, save what they can find, at any other time. It will cost no more than the systems we have blamed, and the condition of the fowls will amply compensate for the little extra trouble.

H. R.

NITRATE OF SODA.

The following remarks on this fertilizer, are extracted from an address by Dr. Anderson, before the Highland Agricultural Society.

I presume all my audience are aware that by the use of no more than 42 lbs. per acre, Mr. Pusey obtained an increase of 7 bushels of barley, or more than four times the value of the manure. I need scarcely say that the experience of many farmers in this neighborhood has clearly established the value of nitrate of soda as a top-dressing for grass lands; in general, however, it has been employed in larger quantity, (1½ to 2 cwt. per acre), and the application of two-thirds cwt. by Mr. Main is, so far as I know, the smallest recorded except Mr. Pusey's. In a subsequent paper, on the natural law by which cubic nitre acts as a manure, Mr. Pusey enters on more difficult ground. In regard to it, I may observe in the first place, that a very curious misapprehension seems to have existed as to the views entertained by chemists regarding the source of the value of nitrate of soda, and it has been asserted that they still considered it uncertain whether that manure acted by virtue of its nitric acid or its soda. I think it right distinctly to contradict this statement. The strict retainers of the Giessen School of Chemistry may possibly still entertain such doubts, but I apprehend, that if Mr. Pusey had put the question to any agricultural chemist, he would have received for reply that it was most unequivocally due to the nitric acid, and not to the soda. It has, however, always been considered doubtful whether the nitric acid is assimilated directly by the plant or is first converted into ammonia, which we know it very readily is; that, however, is an entirely different question on which experiment has not as yet thrown the slightest gleam of light, and which will probably continue long undecided. As far as the question of the constituent on which the value of nitrate of soda depends is concerned, it must be considered as having been entirely set at rest 10 years since, by the experiments of Kuhlman, who showed that nitrate of lime produced the same effects; and the experiment paper, though sufficiently interesting in other respects, was quite unnecessary. As the result of the experiments contained in his papers, Mr. Pusey has deduced as a natural law, that "substances strengthen vegetation, mainly by their contents of nitrogen." But in this there is nothing new; it is exactly what chemists have over and over again asserted, except that they have not gone by any means so far; and while attributing a preëminence to nitrogen, have not failed to point out the importance of other substances. But when we come to consider the matter in all its details, there are other points not referred to by Mr. Pusey, which deserve attention. The experiments of Kuhlman were made for the purpose of contrasting the value of nitrogen in different forms, and the substances used were sulphate and muriate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, Peruvian guano, and the gelatine of bones. The result was, that for every 100 lbs. of nitrogen contained in the manure, there was obtained an increased produce in round numbers of 300 lbs. of hay with the salts of ammonia, of 500 lbs. with nitrate of soda, while with Peruvian guano there was in one case an increase of about 9500, and in another of no less than 16,000 lbs. of hay for the same quantity of nitrogen. The gelatine gave nearly the same increase as the ammonia salts. These results are still more striking when we observe the effect on the subsequent crops; for with the salts of ammonia and nitrate of soda, the effect was not only entirely exhausted on the first crops, but that immediately following was actually diminished, while with Peruvian guano and gelatine, the increase was spread over several years. Nor is there any thing unintelligible in this result; guano gives to the soil much more than nitrogen, it supplies phosphoric acid and the alkalies, and hence, theoretically, ought to produce a higher effect. Such are the results of Kuhlman's experiments. They support fully Mr. Pusey's opinion as to the value of nitrate of soda, but they are totally at variance with that law which Mr. Pusey tells us we may now adopt with unhesitating certainty, namely, that substances strengthen vegetation mainly by their contents of nitrogen; for we perceive that nitrate of soda surpasses sulphate of ammonia in the ratio of 5 to 3, while it their action was merely dependent on their nitrogen, they ought to produce the same effect. Further, a quantity of guano produces in one experiment three, and in another five times the effect of sulphate of ammonia, a difference which can only be attributed to the other constituents of the guano. I have mentioned these experiments, not with the view of throwing any doubts on the advantages derived from the use of nitrate of soda, for on that point there can be no question, but rather as a caution against the too hasty adoption of that law, which Mr. Pusey says we may now assume with unhesitating certainty, and to show that there are many points regarding its use on which we still require experimental evidence. So far from supporting Mr. Pusey's law, those experiments rather point towards a view which at a monthly meeting of the society, some two or three years since, I suggested as deserving experimental inquiry, but which, much to my regret, has not yet been taken up. I believe the facts at present known tend to show that, while nitrate of soda exerts a marked influence upon the growth of the great family of graminaceous plants, it is nearly or altogether without effect upon roots and clover, and I suggested that just as there are two classes of animals, carnivorous and herbivorous, so there might possibly be two classes of plants capable of deriving their nitrogenous constituents from different sources, one assimilating it chiefly or only from ammonia, the other possessing in addition the power of elaborating it from nitric acid. This view derives some support from the recent experiments of Wolff, which have shown that the nitrates which act powerfully upon barley are almost without effect upon tares. It must be understood, however, that I throw out this merely as

a suggestion, to be confirmed or refuted by experiment.

From the Mark Lane Express.

RESOURCES FOR BREEDING HORSES.

HAVING in a previous communication shown that our horses have not deteriorated in respect to blood and performances, I will now proceed to consider how their superiority may be continued, confining my observations to those subjects which apply to breeding hunters, roadsters, and carriage horses. For these purposes, but especially for the two former classes, recourse must be had to stallions which have been bred for the turf; and although it is not imperative, or in all cases advisable, that the mare should be thorough-bred, it is essential that the sire should be. Here, however, I must introduce the suggestion, that there can be no objection to a powerful short-legged thorough-bred mare with hunting action, if such an animal can be obtained at a reasonable price. Breeders of all kinds of animals are aware that when a cross of what may be termed plebeian blood is resorted to, the stain should be in the dam, and that the male should be of the higher class. The superiority of the progeny arising from this system was clearly demonstrated some years since. The stallions to be selected should be those with good legs and feet, sound constitutions, strong backs and loins, with prominent hips, muscular thighs, and perfectly defined hocks; the shoulders being so intimately connected with the action of the fore-legs, demand the most positive scrutiny, and temper is an attribute not to be disregarded. Color may also be a consideration—not forgetting to ascertain what may have prevailed among the ancestors. A horse that has signalized himself by winning his races when the ground has been deep, is greatly to be preferred, for the purpose now under consideration, to one which could only run when the course was dry, although the former may not have won more than two or three races during his career, and the latter twenty. This circumstance will generally influence the breeders of racing stock, who selecting the one which has won the most races, and beaten the most superior competitors, leaves the other at the service of those who confine their breeding to less aristocratic pretensions. Perhaps it may be observed that there are very few stallions in which are combined all the good qualities I have enumerated; but there are some; they should be extensively patronized, and that would be the best security against their being sent abroad. It is too frequently the parsimonious saving of breeders which leads to that event. While in every department of a breeding establishment it is necessary to practise economy in the true acceptation of the term, it is equally important to avoid penurious extremes, which must eventually lead to disappointment and loss. Every man should determine upon giving a fair price for a fair commodity; and as every man who breeds hunters expects to realize a good price for a good horse, he should not be niggardly of the sum which he pays for the services of that animal which is to be the progenitor of his future hope. Rather than expend three sovereigns for the services of a superior stallion, many persons will put their mares to any wretch, if the owner will accommodate them for a mere nominal remuneration. This is the frequent cause of useful horses being sent out of the country. It cannot be expected that the owner of a valuable animal will refuse the offer of a high price from a foreigner, unless he can fairly calculate upon realizing an equivalent sum by keeping his horse at home.

To secure stallions of repute, farmers would find it advantageous if they would unite, and signify their determination to patronise those of character. An extra sovereign or two is of no importance to an individual, more especially when he reasonably anticipates a return of his money; but when a number of persons contribute their one or two sovereigns, it becomes an object of great importance to the recipient. The introduction of Arabian blood has been recommended, as calculated to correct the evils which are alleged against the horses of the present day. The argument held is, that in "the early days of racing the large importations of good Arabs—followed as they were by a careful and continuous selection, not for one good quality, but for a fine union of qualities—succeeded for many years in producing, both for the turf and all useful and pleasurable purposes, the best saddle-horses in the world." I have clearly shown that the horses of the present day are far superior to those of the time referred to. Going back to Arabian blood would be like putting a child back to his alphabet after he had gained proficiency in spelling. The advocate of the Arabian states that "most of the Arab horses which have of late years come to this country have not been of the first class;" and also that "they can only run at their full stretch for about half a mile." There is no doubt that the horses that have been imported have been the best that could be procured; and the fact of their not being able to run more than half a mile is an admission that our race-horses are far superior to them in running distances. Apart from racing, for hunting purposes a cross from the Arab is worthless, which I have seen in several instances. Animals bred in that manner are proverbially soft, and of delicate constitutions. For breeding hacks, if they are only to be required for parade, selecting very handsome Galloway mares about fourteen hands high, the services of a clever Arabian may be admitted, but for no other kind of horse.

If it is desired to breed large powerful carriage horses, a very active short-legged Cleveland horse may be most suitable; but he should be one of extraordinary perfection.

Unfortunately, many persons who enter into the speculation of breeding are not sufficiently good judges of the points and merits of horses, and thus they are often led into the error of putting their mares to unsuitable stallions at a low price. Not being able to distinguish the difference of blood, constitution, shape, and action between the one whose covering price is three sovereigns and the other whose price is one sovereign, they only regard the saving of their money, without reference to future prospects. It is to be hoped the Royal Agricultural Society will take the subject into consideration; they have it in their power to advance the interests of breeds of horses very materially; and I doubt whether it can be done more effectually than by offering liberal prizes for the produce of certain stallions which, having been exhibited, shall be approved by the judges. It would be a means of assisting inexperienced breeders in their selections. They would naturally send their mares to those stallions, in the hope of gaining the prizes for their produce; but it should be a condition that the stallion so chosen should be restricted to covering mares not thorough-bred for a certain sum, I think not exceeding three sovereigns. Comparing the value of the prizes offered by the Royal Agricultural Society—when the meeting took place at Gloucester—for other kinds of farming stock with those for horses, especially of the roadster class, it would appear that such animals are considered unworthy of encouragement. For three different breeds of bulls £40 each were given; but for the best roadster stallion only £15. Young bulls, cows, and heifers in milk or in calf, and yearlings heifers of the three kinds, were liberally rewarded with prizes, and likewise old and young stallions, fillies, and brood mares and foals for agricultural purposes; but there was not one prize for young stallions, fillies, or brood mares of the roadster class, which, if judiciously managed, is the most profitable stock a farmer can raise

The next consideration—and that is a most essential one—is the method of keeping foals after weaning them; it is a rock upon which so many breeders have foundered. Having weaned their foals, they consider nothing more is necessary for them but grass, and that at a time of year when it is sour and contains very little nutriment. On the importance of this subject, I make an extract from a letter by a friend, who heard that I had very recently visited a breeding establishment which some years since was in very high repute. To give additional weight to the remark, I must state that my friend is a member of the Veterinary College, and for thirty-seven years had the superintendence of the first stud in England. He writes—"From ignorance in forming the plan, the grass is now so rank and sour that there are complaints of worms, &c., instead of praising, as was formerly the case, the keep of the paddocks." Much of the success or disappointment attendent on breeding horses turns upon the choice of appropriate food, which requires occasionally to be varied. The growth of animals, the development of muscles, and the texture of bones and sinews, depend greatly upon the food with which they are supplied. I am not about to recommend such nutriment as may be conductive to the production of fat, but such as will supply the blood with the elements of muscle, bone, and sinew; for these are the substances which render the horse valuable. To this purpose a moderate allowance of corn and hay is imperative. First-rate hunters and hacks cannot be reared without it. The proportions may vary, as the constitutions of all animals are not alike, and circumstances will sometimes produce unexpected changes. It is in the judicious observance of these matters that the talent of the breeder is exemplified, and his success will to a great extent depend upon his discrimination. When a horse appears too fat, it is a certain indication that the food which he receives abounds in particles having the property of forming that substance; in which case it should be changed, and the quantity diminished.

In some cases it will happen that a horse does not generate a sufficiency of fat, for a certain portion is as necessary to health as an overbundance is prejudicial. This may arise from indisposition, the bad quality of the food, or its not being suitable to the constitution. If indisposition be the cause, the nature of the complaint should be ascertained, and suitable remedies administered. Should it be decided that the quality of the food is bad, the alternative is obvious. Relaxation of the bowels will cause horses to lose their flesh; and so will the opposite condition—constipation. These complaints will frequently have their origin from the food not being suitable to the constitution, and therefore a change is necessary. These may be considered trifles; but when it is observed that relaxation of the bowels, and also constipation, in foals and young horses, if neglected, often becomes constitutional, that impression must cease. In the management of thorough-bred stock, every effort is exerted by giving them good food to bring them forward, so that they may run at two years old. It would be out of character, on this occasion, to enter into any arguments for or against the practice of running them at such an early age; but I may remark that every farmer is aware of the profit and advantages of making his oxen and his sheep ready for the butcher at the earliest period possible; and that is accomplished by selecting those breeds which are celebrated for the purpose, and supplying them at an early age with suitable food. By judicious treatment the horse may likewise be brought forward in his stamina and condition, by which means a four-years-old will be as forward as a five-years-old that has been neglected, and this may be termed the economy of breeding. To explain myself more clearly, we will suppose two colts are taken from their dams in October; one shall have two feeds of corn per diem, a bran mash once a week, and occasionally a few swedes, according to the state of the bowels, four or five pounds of hay, a small paddock or yard to run into, with a hovel for shelter at night and when the weather is unfavorable; the other to be turned into a meadow where the grass is up

to his knees, but which is necessarily sour, containing very little nourishment, and which will probably egender worms. When frost and snow commence, he will be accommodated with an asylum in the farm-yard, where he will be driven about by the cows, perchance gored by their horns when picking a mouthful of barley straw or indifferent hay from the cribs which the jealous cows aforesaid wisely consider their just and exclusive prerogative. In March or April this colt is probably allowed the range of some meadow or pasture land, when, by meeting the young grass as it springs, he occasions damage to the future crop, and the succulent herbage relaxes his bowels. In May he appears a poor, weakly, mis-shapen, dejected object, pot-bellied, and looking as if he had been starved, which, in point of fact, is nearly true, although he has eaten or destroyed keep which might have been more profitably consumed in other ways. Now let us consider the one which has been properly treated; he will be found to look kind and healthy; having been sheltered from the elements he will be robust, and exhibit a fair proportion of muscle, and he will be playful and full of spirits. But, then, the opponents to this course will exclaim, he has cost so much more to keep him. Let us therefore ascertain to what extent. From October the 15th to May the 13th is thirty weeks. Two feeds of corn per diem, or a bushel per week, at three shillings, amount to £4 10s., at which price they may be bought, although when consuming the produce off the land on the farm, it ought only to be estimated at the cost of growing it. Half-a-hundred weight of hay per week, at £3 per ton, £2 5s. Bran mashes and swedes, 5s.; in all, £7. The valuable manure that will be made is equivalent to the extra attendance. The half-starved animal will consume or waste more hay; but we will estimate at the same amount—£2. The injury that he will do to the spring grass by meeting the keep and poaching the land cannot be valued at less than 10s.; total, £2 10s., making a difference of £4 10s. But what would be the relative value of the two animals if offered for sale? much more than the difference in the keep. To sell at this early age, however, is not the object; it has therefore to be considered which will make the most valuable horse at four or five years old—one which has had every opportunity for establishing a healthy, vigorous constitution, or one which having been badly kept in its youth will grow up to be a puny, badly-shaped, infirm animal. It is the latter mode or rearing them which produces so many horses of little value, and which has led to the impression, that the breed of saddle horses has deteriorated. We have plenty of good material to work upon, if that material is properly manufactured. A superficial observer comes to the conclusion, when he visits a large fair, that there are very few good horses to be met with, because all the rubbish is taken to that market; but those which have been more judiciously managed by breeders who have acquired fame, are eagerly sought for by dealers and others, who go to the farms where they are bred, and there make their purchases. Those horses are never seen at the public fairs at all.

There are so many little items connected with rearing horses which may appear trivial in detail, yet are collectively important, that it becomes necessary to mention some of the most essential. When a foal is taken from its dam, the loss it sustains from being deprived of its mother's milk is considerable; that must be met by offering nourishing food, consisting of oats, which should be bruized, occasionally bran mashes; the addition of a little boiled linseed in the water is highly beneficial. As it is used on many farms for feeding fat stock and other cattle, there cannot be much trouble or expense in supplying the small portion requisite to the young foals. Shelter is of great consequence at all seasons, especially during the fall of rain. The texture of the coats of young horses is of that nature, that when it once becomes wet it is a long time getting dry again, more especially in the winter season. During the process of drying, the evaporation which takes place very materially reduces the quantity of nutriment contained in the blood destined to form fat and muscle on the growing frame, and thus much of the benefit to be expected from the food which the animal consumes is wasted. Colds taken at an early age are calculated to injure the constitutions of young horses to a considerable extent. Some persons urge that horses should be brought up without attention to such matters, in order to render them hardy; but a moment's reflection will decide which of the two is most likely to constitute an animal which, having arrived at maturity, is required to be in possession of his physical powers in the utmost state of development—one which has enjoyed uninterrupted health, or one which has been constantly in a state bordering upon disease. Although colds may be slight, when frequently repeated they become constitutional. Settling upon the lungs, they are often the origin of cutaneous disorders, swelled legs, blindness, and general debility. That organ being the medium through which the vital principle of the air is conveyed to the blood, its pure and healthy state, and consequently the general vigor of the animal, must be affected more or less by the condition of the lungs. When the trachea or windpipe is attacked by colds, and the membrane with which it is lined becomes inflamed, roaring is a frequent result; but it is a mistaken notion to suppose that malady ever proceeds from the lungs. Strangles, and the epidemic called "influenza," often occasion roaring, but more especially when the membrane lining the windpipe has become the seat of chronic inflammation produced by colds.

As I would urgently recommend that all horses should be sheltered from the inclemency of the elements, so would I as earnestly recommend that they should be allowed the free enjoyment of pure air when the weather permits; but for this purpose they should not be turned into wet foggy meadows, where the grass is rank and luxuriant. Small paddocks or yards are the most suitable during winter, or a dry upland pasture that has been eaten close by sheep; but the existing conveniences must in some measure regulate this event.

CULTIVATION OF FLAX FOR 1854.

THE following are directions for the cultivation and preparation of flax, which has been issued this spring to the Irish farmers, by Messrs. Leadbetter & Co., of Belfast:

Choice of Soil and Rotation—By attention and careful cultivation, good flax may be grown on various soils; but some are much better adapted for it than others. The best is a sound, dry, deep loam, with a clay sub-soil, or a light soil with clay sub-soil. It is very desirable that the land should be properly drained and sub-soiled, as, when it is saturated with either underground or surface water, good flax cannot be expected.

Without method there cannot be success; different soils require a difference of rotation. In the best soils of Flanders, flax is grown in the third year of a seven-course rotation, or the fifth year of a ten-course rotation. In Belgium it follows a crop of oats. It is a very general error among farmers to consider it necessary that flax should follow a potato crop. Except on very poor soils, a better crop will be produced after grain, and the double profit of the grain and flax secured. If old lea be broken up, and potatoes planted, followed by a grain crop, a very fine crop of flax may be obtained in the ensuing year.

Preparation of the Soil—One of the points of the greatest importance in the culture of flax, is by thorough draining, and by careful and repeated cleansing of the land from weeds, to place it in the finest, deepest, and cleanest state. This will make room for the roots to penetrate, which they will often do, to a depth equal to one-half the length of the stem above ground.

After wheat, one plowing may be sufficient, on light, friable loam, but two are better; and, on stiff soils, three are advisable—one immediately after harvest, across the ridges, and two in spring, so as to be ready for sowing in the first or second week of April. Much will, of course, depend on the nature of the soil, and the knowledge and experience of the farmer. The land should be so drained and sub-soiled, that it can be sown in flats, which will give more even and much better crops. Sub-soiling should not be done at a less interval than two years prior to the flax crop. This gives the land time to consolidate. But until the system of thorough draining be general, it will be necessary, after oats, to plow early in autumn, to the depth of six or eight inches. Throw the land into ridges, that it may receive the frost and air; and make surface drains to carry off the rains of winter. If weeds make their appearance, cross-plow in spring, about a month before sowing, but only two or three inches deep, so as to preserve the winter surface for the roots of flax. Following the last harrowing, it is necessary to roll, to give an even surface and consolidate the land, breaking up this again with a short-toothed or seed harrow, before sowing, which should be up and down, not across the ridges, or anglewise.

Sowing—The seed best adapted for the generality of soils is Riga, although Dutch has been used, in many districts of the country, for a series of years, with perfect success. American seed does not generally suit well, as it is apt to produce a coarse branchy stem. If used, it should be on deep loamy soils. Dutch seed has been used frequently of late, and produced excellent crops. In buying seed, select it plump, shining, and heavy, and of the best brands. Sift it clear of all the seeds of weeds, which will save a great deal of after trouble, when the crop is growing. This may be done by fanners, and through a wire sieve, twelve bars to the inch. The proportion of seed for sowing may be stated at three and a half imperial bushels to the Irish or plantation acre. (This is about 2 bushels to the imperial acre, the same as the U. S.) It is better to sow too thick than to thin; as with thick sowing, the stem grows tall and straight, gets only one or two seed capsules at the top; and the fiber is found greatly superior, in fineness and length, to that produced from thin-sown flax, which grows coarse, and branches out, producing much seed, but a very inferior quality of fiber. The ground being purverized and well cleaned, roll and sow. If it has been laid off without ridges, it should be marked off in divisions, eight to ten feet broad, in order give an equable supply of seed. After sowing, cover it with a seed-harrow, going twice over it—once up and down, and once across or anglewise; as this makes it more equally spread, and divides the small drills made by the teeth of the harrow. Finish with the roller, which will leave the seed covered about an inch—the proper depth. The ridge should be very little raised in the center, when the ground is ready for the seed, otherwise the crop will not ripen evenly; and, when land is properly drained, there should be no ridges. The sowing of clover and grass seeds along with the flax is not advised when it can be conveniently avoided, as the plants injure the root-ends of the flax. But carrots may be sown, in suitable soils, in drills, so that the person pulling the flax may step over the rows, which may be afterwards hoed and cleaned, and should have some liquid manure. A stollen crop of rape or winter vetches, or of turnips of the stone or Norfolk globe varieties may be taken, after the flax is pulled. Rolling the ground after sowing is very advisable, care being taken not to roll when the ground is so wet that the earth adheres to the roller.

Manure—Well-rotted stable manure is as good as can be applied.

Weeding—If care has been paid to cleaning the seed and the soil, few weeds will appear; but if there be any, they must be carefully pulled. It is done in Belgium by women and children, who, with coarse cloth on their knees, creep along on all-fours. This injures the young plants less than walking over it. They should work, also, facing the wind, so that the plants laid flat by the pressure may be blown up again, or thus be assisted to gain their upright position. The tender plant, pressed one way soon recovers; but, if twisted or flattened by careless weeders, it seldom rises again.

Pulling—When any of the crop is lying, and suffering from wet, it should be pulled as soon as possible, and kept by itself. So long as the ground is undrained, and imperfectly levelled before sowing, the flax will be found of different lengths. In such cases, pull each length separately. When there is much second growth, the flax should be caught by the puller just underneath the bolls, which will leave the short stalks behind. If the latter be few, it is best not to pull them at all. It is most essential to take time and care to keep the flax even, like a brush, at the root ends.

Saving the Flax—This requires to be very carefully done, as inattention will reduce the value of the straw, and yield inferior fiber. When made up, for drying in large sheaves, the straw is much injured, the outside stalks being much discolored by the heat of the sun, before the inside of the sheaf is dry, and the weight of the straw is reduced. The flax stems should be put together in bunches about one-half larger than a man can grasp in one hand, spread a little, and laid on the ground in rows after each puller; the branches laid with tops and roots alternately, which prevents the seed bolls from sticking to each other in lifting. It should be stooked as soon after pulling as possible, and never allowed to remain over night unstooked, except in settled weather. The stooking should go on at the same time as the pulling, as, if flax is allowed to get rain while on the ground, its color is injured. A well-trained stooker will put up the produce of a statute acre or more, in good order, in a day with two boys or girls to hand him the bunches. The flax should be handed with the tops to the stooker. The handfuls, as pulled, are set up without being tied, resting against each other—the root-end spread well out, and the tops joining like the letter A. The stooks are made eight to ten feet long, and a short strap keeps the ends firm. The stooks should be very narrow at the top, and thinly put up, so they may get the full benefit of the weather. In six or eight days, at most, after being pulled, the flax should be ready for tying up in sheaves of the size of corn sheaves. It is then ricked, and allowed to stand in the field until the seed is dry enough for stacking. To build the rick, lay two poles parallel on the ground, about a foot asunder, (a very few poles will do an acre.) The flax is then built upon these, the length of a sheaf in thickness or breadth. The poles should be laid north and south, so that the sun shall get at both sides of the rick during the day. In building, the sheaves should be laid tops and roots alternately, built seven to eight feet high, and finished on the top by laying a single row of sheaves lengthwise, or across the others, and then another row as before, but with the tops all the same way, which gives a scope to throw off rain, and finished by putting on the top a little straw, tied down with straw ropes, fixed to each end of the poles upon which the rick is built. In this way the bolls will be fully ripened for keeping in a stack, without the straw receiving injury by long exposure to the weather. If the straw is discolored, it is very much reduced in value. To preserve a fine yellow-colored straw should be the object.

How to Walk.—In walking, always turn your toes out and your thoughts inward. The former will prevent your falling into cellars, the latter from falling into iniquity.

CORN AND THE WIRE-WORM.

I wish to give a few hints on the subject of Corn Planting and the Wire-worm. Having heard a number of complaints about the destructiveness of the wire-worm in corn, I thought, as the season of planting approached, it would be a fit time to give the result of my experience. At the time of planting I put two or three pieces of corn cobs in the hill, and in a few days, if there are any wire-worms in the soil, they will be found in the pith of the cob. They will remain there without interfering in the least with the corn. I have also become satisfied that the cobs answer in a measure as a fertilizer, as they will soon become saturated, and retain the moisture through the season. These worms are also destructive in wheat. Some years since, in the State of New-York, I plowed for summer fallow an old timothy meadow, which was of a mucky loam, and sowed it to wheat, which they totally destroyed. The next year I planted the same lot with the same result; they did not leave me the seed. My neighbor who had about the same luck that I had, tried the cob as an experiment. A few days after planting he invited me into his lot, where I found, on opening the hill, from one to a dozen worms in one cob.

The result was he had a full crop of corn. I followed the example the next year with entire success, on the same lot where my crop had been destroyed the year before.

Since then, I and the wire-worm have dissolved partnership on the corn dicker. If the remedy may prove as successful to others who may be troubled with the intruders, as it has to me, I shall feel amply rewarded for my scribbling. John Wormley.

[This remedy for the wire-worm is an excellent one, which we also found useful in a corn field that had been broken up the fall previous to planting. In addition to what Mr. Wormley says, the suggestion is thrown out, of the propriety of letting one of the boys gather the cobs at hoeing time, and then burn them, so as to destroy the worms. If left in the cob, they will wax fat and increase there just as rapidly as they would if left alone altogether.—*Ed. Mich. Farmer.*

CHEAP WHOLE FLOUR BREAD.

The present high price of provisions is felt by no class more severely than by the laboring agricultural population; and I observe that the diffusion among them of modes whereby they may husband their resources of food, is one of the topics of the day. I shall endeavor to give some aid in this by stating the result of an economical system of bread-making followed in my family for some months. The tailings of wheat are sent to the mill, ground into flour, and returned with the loss of only about 6 per cent. in weight, being moisture evaporated in the milling process. This flour is made into dough with buttermilk instead of water. A dessert-spoonful of carbonate of soda is mixed with a portion of the milk, and a little yeast added, with salt to taste. This leavens the lump in a few minutes; it is at once shaped out into loaves, and put into the kitchen oven, from which it is taken in rather less than an hour, in the form of wholesome brown bread, pleasing to the palate and easy of digestion. The cost stands thus: A bushel of tailings, weighing 57 lbs., gave a return of 54 lbs. of flour; value of wheat, 7*s.* 6*d.*, (English currency;) milling and cartage, 6*d.*—8*s.* A baking of 6 lbs. flour at this rate costs 10½*d.*; half gallon buttermilk, 3*d.*; yeast, carbonate of soda, and salt, 1½*d.*; total, 1*s.* 3*d.* From this is produced 10½ lbs. bread, which cost 1½*d.* per lb., say 5*d.* for the 4 lb. loaf! The labor of making is scarcely worth reckoning, being an act of pleasing housewifery to one of the family. The oven of the cooking stove is, ordinarily, hot enough to fire the bread put into it. Thus there is no expense for the item of firing. It is true that an ordinary cottager seldom has an oven; but he certainly ought to have one even for the daily purposes of cookery, and its cost would be made up by the savings on a very few weeks' loaves made as above. But, it may be said, all cannot have tailings. True; but even in the event of using full weight wheat at 10*s.* 6*d.* per bushel, we should add but 1*d.* per loaf to the cost above stated; for a bushel of 63 lbs. wheat, costing, including milling, 11*s.*, gives 60 lbs. flour; *i. e.*, 1*s.* 1*d.* instead of 10½*d.* as above for the 6 lbs. flour required to make two and a half 4 lb. loaves. Thus, by following the simple process I have described, every one, from the Queen to cottager, may, even in the present dear times, command a quartern loaf for 6*d.*! I will not promise that it shall be so nutritious as my 5*d.* loaf; for chemistry, by one of its latest and best expounders, teaches us that "the tail corn which the farmer separates before bringing his grain to market, and usually grinds for his own use, is richer in gluten than the plump full-grown grain, and is therefore more nutritious." By the way, this is another proof that we farmers don't enough prize our blessings; for here we learn that what we were wont to consider a grievance, the consuming at home of our inferior grains, has really been one of the causes of the goodly development of thews and sinews which marks the tenant farmer class.—*Agricultural Gazette.*

PRACTICAL HINTS ABOUT THE DAIRY.

We are now approaching a time when those who have a dairy, either large or small, should pride themselves in the production of the best butter and cheese that can be made. The first thing the farmer ought to attend is the food for the cows, otherwise the labors of the most careful dairy-maid will be of little use. Many are tempted to produce quantity rather than quality; but those who are renowned for manufacturing a superior article are sure to find the best customers and the best price in the market. Next to food for the cows comes cleanliness in the dairy. It is no uncommon thing to find that the possessors of large dairies are by no means celebrated for the best flavored butter; we frequently see them beaten by those with only two or three cows, where their produce is solely managed by the farmer's wife. Such persons are usually found to be scrupulously clean in every thing belonging to it. Once let it be known, and every one of the neighborhood will be a customer, if they want a good article; to such the price is no object. It soon gets abroad that she rises early, and sees that no unwashed hands are permitted to milk unwashed udders—that the pans and pails are well scalded and exposed to the air—that the churn is clean and sweet, and the butter washed in clean water and made by her own clean hands. What a recommendation is this to those whose stomachs are not prepared to take any thing and every thing that comes in their way, without regard to the mode of producing it! In large establishments the case is frequently very different. A certain number of lads or maids have to milk a certain number of cows, and, so long as they bring in a fair quantity of milk, few questions are asked. In such places from one to two or more young dairymaids are kept at low wages. Their appearence in person and dress should be the perfection of neatness and cleanliness, but too often the reverse is the case; and in this, as many other instances in the preparation of what we eat and drink, if we did but reflect on such things, we should feel but little pleasure in eating and drinking. Cleanliness in the dairy itself is of the highest importance. It should be used for nothing else—nothing calculated to taint the atmosphere should enter or be near it; yet how common it is to see it used as a larder, because it is cool! Any thing that is wanted to be kept as long as possible is thrust into the dairy. In many cases the scullery for washing up the utensils, with a heated copper of water, joins the dairy, and oftentimes the door between

left open, admitting the steam from sour vessels. Most dairies have windows to admit air; and so long as they are open, it suffices, without regard to the out-of-door temperature, or whether the wind blows from one quarter or another. Perhaps the window nearest the yard or piggery, tainted by the animals or sour wash or grains, is left open when the wind blows in that direction, and carries with it all it can gather, to taint the dairy. No wonder that, under such circumstances, the produce is not good. Having had some experience in these matters, we do not hesitate to say that such things have a very bad influence on the quality of the butter and cheese. Remove these evils, and let it be known; then raise your price, and your returns will be greater.—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

STEEPING SEEDS.

The germination of seeds is a thing which many are interested in, and any method to insure their pushing into growth more speedily than usual, would doubtless be received by many with delight. I have found the following plan of steeping them to be of service in my own case. When about to sow seeds, such as peas, broad beans, French beans, &c., I collect some sheep-droppings beforehand, and put them into a vessel with water, enough to moisten them. Into this I put my seeds, but of course into something by means of which they may be conveniently withdrawn when required. Thus situated I let them remain till well soaked, when they will be in a fit state for sowing. I have found that for beans about 36 hours are required, and for peas about 24 hours. Steeping, however, does not apply to the above-mentioned seeds alone; it may be practised with advantage on many others, and doubtless many flower seeds might be safely treated in this way as well, and with success. This will, however, very much depend upon whether the plants intended to be raised are gross feeders or not; and also whether the soil contains much organic matter or not; for of course the more it contains the less time in proportion will the seed require to soak before being sown. This practice will be found (on poor soils especially) to be of very great service to gardeners in general; for it will not only hasten their crops, but will make them as strong and vigorous as need be; and those who have never tried it would be quite surprised to see the difference it makes; an instance of which I will now give. In 1852 I made a trial with French beans—a small quantity was placed in the soil, and at the same time a small quantity in sheep-droppings, as described, where they remained about 44 hours; they were then taken up and put in soil near the former, and the result was surprising; but at the time the former were about 8 inches high, the latter were, to the best of my recollection, nearly double that height, and their foliage testified as to the state of health the plants were in. I have since practised steeping with good results, and others who may be induced to give it a trial will no doubt be similarly rewarded.—*Joseph Divers, Maidstone.* [Would they not have grown just as well, if you had steeped them in clear rain water?]—*Gardeners' Chronicle.*

ON THE MEANS OF MULTIPLYING THE SMALLER BIRDS AROUND OUR DWELLINGS.

On this subject, the last number of *Hovey's Magazine* contains an excellent article from the pen of Wilson Flagg. We can, in brief, give his points. Few realize how much birds, as companions of our residences, add to our happiness. To those pent up in the city, a walk one of these bright mornings to where the merry birds are laughing in the fulness of their joy is ecstacy; and as all pleasant impressions go toward forming our character and life, the more numerous we can make them the better. Birds, like the flowers, green fields and singing brooks, are part of the poetry of the world—banish them, and how gladness would give place to gloom, and music to mourning. Birds, too, apart from the happiness they give us, are real *friends* to the farmer; they rid him of thousands of insects that would destroy his crops.

Mr. Flagg gives two plain methods of preserving birds:—"The first consists in omitting to destroy them; the second in promoting the growth of certain trees, and other plants on which they depend for shelter and subsistence.

The birds, considered in relation to trees and shrubbery, may be divided into two classes. First, the familiar birds that live in our orchards and gardens, and increase in numbers in proportion as the woods are cleared, and the lands devoted to tillage. To this class belong several of our sparrows, the wren, the blue-bird, the American robin, the bobolink, the linnet, the yellow-bird, and some others. The second are the less familiar birds that frequent the woods and wild pastures, and which would probably be exterminated by reducing the whole forest to park or tillage. Among these may be named the little wood-sparrow, one of the sweetest of American songsters, nearly all the thrushes, the towee finch, and many of the *sylvias*, and woodpeckers.

To preserve the first of these species little is necessary to be done except to avoid destroying them; but to insure the multiplication of the second, we must study their haunts, the substances provided by nature for their food, the plants that afford them shelter, and to a certain extent labor to preserve all these for their use. The little brown sparrow is never heard in the heart of our villages, unless they are closely surrounded by woods. Yet this bird does not live in the woods. He frequents the pastures which are overgrown with wild shrubs, and their undergrowth of vines, mosses, and ferns that unite imperceptibly with the green sward by which they are surrounded. He is always found in the whortleberry pastures, and probably makes his repast on these simple fruits in their season.

He builds his nest on the ground, on a mossy knoll, under the protection of a thicket. Every bird is more or less attached to a particular character of grounds and shrubbery; and if we destroy this character, we drive this particular species from our neighborhood, to seek in other places its natural habitats. Hence we may account for the comparative silence that pervades the grounds of some of our most admired country seats, for with respect to the wants of our most familiar birds, it is possible that cultivation may be carried too far."

In all well-cultivated farms and country residences the familiar birds will be plenty; but the others will frequent those places only, where wild shrubbery, thickets, &c., abound. Every one by watching the habits of birds can tell what is necessary to induce them to be friendly. By removing all underbrush, you as effectually banish the cat-bird, red thrush, &c., as you would exterminate the squirrel by destroying all nut-bearing trees.

A fence-row near the house grown up with all sorts of wild plants, will become an aviary of many singing birds. Study the habits of the blue-bird, martin and swallow, and you may have them about you by thousands.

From the earliest period of our history, it has been customary among our people to encourage the multiplication of swallows, by the erection of bird-houses in their gardens and enclosures. This custom was probably derived from the aborgines, who were in the habit of furnishing a hospitable retreat for the purple martin, by fixing hollow gourds or calabashes upon the branches of trees near their cabins. It is generally believed that these little birds serve, by their unceasing annoyances, to drive away the hawks and crows from their vicinity, performing thereby an essential service to the farmer. This pleasing and useful custom has of late years grown unaccountaby into disuse. The chattering of swallows is one of the delightful accompaniments of a vernal morning; and that of the martin, in particular, is the most enlivening of all sounds from animated nature. As the birds of the swallow tribe subsist upon insects that inhabit the atmosphere, it is not in our power to increase their means of subsistence. Hence the only means we can use for increasing their numbers is to supply them with a shelter and retreat. By such appliances it would be easy to keep their numbers up to a level with the quantities of insects that constitute their prey.

The wren and the blue-bird are encouraged by similar accommodations. But these birds are not social in their habits, a separate box must be supplied for each pair of birds. The wren is an indefatigable destroyer of insects, and one of the most interesting of our familiar songsters, singing like the riser, during the heat of the day, when most other birds are silent. The blue-bird, which is hardly less familiar, delights in the hollow branch of an old tree in the orchard, but would be equally satisfied with an artificial imitation of the rude convenience supplied him by nature.

If we observe all these requirements, when employed in tilling a farm or laying out a country seat, we do but avoid the destruction of those beautiful relations which nature has established throughout the earth. The plow and the scythe may do their work for man, without interfering with the wants of those creatures whom nature has appointed as the enliveners of his toil. Every estate might be made to represent the whole country, in its fields and cultivated lawn, with their proper admixture of forest, thicket and primitive herbage. Then, while sitting at our windows, the eye would be delighted by the sight of little coppices of wild shrubbery, with their undergrowth of mosses, ferns, and Christmas evergreens, rising in the midst of the smooth lawn, and charming opposition to the flower-beds, that are distributed in other parts of the ground. In these miniature wilds the small birds would find a shelter suited to all their wants and instincts, and in return for our hospitality, would act as the sentinels of our orchards and gardens, and the musicians to attend in our daily labor and recreations.

CLAIMS OF AGRICULTURAL PATENTS

FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 25, 1854.

Ditching Plow.—J. C. Tiffany, of Coxsackie, N. Y.: I claim, first, one or more adjustable coulters or cutters, in combination with a permanent coulter, with one or more adjustable elevators, with a mold board or mold boards attached, as described.

I do not claim any of the parts or devices enumerated, separately or alone, but in combination, and in combination only.

Second, I claim the flexible adjustable spreader for moving the earth from or returning it to the ditch as required, as described.

Third, I claim the flexible adjustable spreader in combination with the plow, as set forth.

Fourth, I claim the devices, substantially as described, or their equivalents, for changing the position of the rear end of the beam, in combination with the angular slot, and curved plate, as described.

Field Fence.—D. R. Prindle, of East Bethany, N. Y.: I claim the method described, or its equivalents of fastening together the adjacent posts or standards of a field fence, that is, by passing a piece of metal having a head on one end through two adjacent posts, and securing the same by a wedge or its equivalent at the other end, the standards or posts being so beveled as to cause any desired angle to be made by any two adjacent panels.

Guard Fingers for Harvesters.—W. F. Ketchum, (Assignor to Rufus S. Howard,) of Buffalo, N. Y.: I claim moulding and casting the blank for the tooth in the open form described, (without a chill,) then mallifying, dressing up, and bending them into the proper shape as required.

Horticultural Department.

To Horticulturists. — Our weekly issue of so large a journal, gives us ample room to devote to the different departments of cultivation, and we have commenced with this volume, to allot a separate space to Horticulture. We have secured additional efficient aid in its conduction, and we invite horticulturists generally, to send in their contributions on all subjects interesting and instructive to those engaged in similar pursuits with themselves. We are receiving the leading foreign and domestic horticultural journals, and shall be abundantly able to bring promptly before our readers all that transpires, which may be new and useful.

CELERY.

A correspondent from Trenton, N.J., inquires the best method for cultivating celery, the soil adapted to it, and the best time of setting the young plants. As we have cultivated this delicious vegetable for seven years, with very good success, we give him the results of our experience. It requires more attention than most other vegetables, and the growing of good celery is a much more difficult matter than its preservation. The chief difficulty about it is to attend to its wants often and seasonably.

If you wish early celery, you must sow your seed in March, in a hot-bed, and put out your plants in the trench in June, or early in July. If you only care for it late, sow in May, in the open ground. Select a moist, rich spot for your seed bed, thoroughly prepared. The finer the tilth of the mold, the better your seed will germinate. An old mat, thrown over the bed, or any light covering of grass or weeds, will aid the sprouting. The covering should be removed as soon as the plants are well up. As soon as the plants are up an inch high, they should be pricked out, in a bed of rich mold, thoroughly prepared. A compost of muck and night-soil, or muck and hen-dung, is a very good manure for the bed. The plants should be set in drills, six inches apart, and four inches in the drill. You cannot have good strong plants without pricking out. They should be kept free from weeds, and the soil should be stirred once a week, until August.

The selection of a suitable spot for the trenches, is a matter of considerable importance. As celery needs a good deal of water, select a spot as near the watering-place as possible. Your soil should be two feet deep, and if there is not that depth of black loam, you must prepare it in the trenches for the occasion. You may prepare your trenches for growing two or four rows, as suits your convenience. If for two rows, the trenches should be 18 inches wide and 18 inches deep.

We have tried various kinds of manure, feathers, hair, night-soil, &c. We have obtained the best results from night-soil, well mixed with loam or charcoal dust, but we attributed this to the fact that it was used in larger quantities, rather than to any superiority in the manure. The hog's hair, though used in small quantities, gave satisfactory results. But almost any manure will do, if it be thoroughly incorporated with the soil in the bottom of the trenches. If you use stable dung, the trenches should be filled at least six inches with it, and thoroughly worked into the soil with a fork.

Junius Smith, in the Patent Office Report, gives the following directions for setting out the plants in the trench. "The plants should be trimmed about the crown, just at the top of the root; all the young suckers taken off, leaving the plant trim and neat, with all its main stalks. With a dibble, which should be as large as the handle of a spade, as the roots will now be of considerable size, begin at one end of the trench, with your face toward the other, and set out a single row of plants in the middle of the trench, and not less than six inches asunder; water them well. No teetotaller loves water better than celery. It cannot have too much. The roots of this plant require more room than is generally allowed them, as any one may see when they are taken up for the table.

"Earthing up the plants should be delayed until they have attained a good size; and then it requires care, especially the first time. I always get into the trench myself, and holding the plant with all its stalks in my left hand firmly, with a short-handled small hoe draw the earth up around the plant, without allowing it to come in between the stalks. When this is done, and the plants thus protected, you may, with a spade, strike off the edges of the trench, and partially fill it. As the plant grows, continue to earth up, and by the first of November, the plants will be two feet above the level of the earth, and of the size of a man's arm."

Celery is sometimes attacked by a small fly, but this enemy is best avoided by watering freely. We have never noticed a diseased plant in our garden, and we attribute this to the watering more than to any thing else. Our celery trenches stand close by a ditch in which salt water flows, and we have found that watering with the brine once a week gave them great luxuriance. We have grown plants a yard long. Wherever a garden is near the shore, it will be worth while to try the experiment of salt watering. It is a marine plant, and must have salt in some shape, in order to attain perfection. It is a good plan to put salt into the compost for the trenches. Either of the following composts will be found effective in the trenches.

1st. Well decomposed stable manure, with ten gallons of strong brine, to each half cord.

2d. One cord of peat turf, meadow muck, and wood's earth, which has been decomposed by the salt and lime mixture, (three bushels of lime slacked in water saturated with salt,) with one hundred pounds of Peruvian guano, thoroughly mixed ten days before using.

Celery is a delicious vegetable, and makes an agreeable variety upon the table during winter and even into spring. Its use is chiefly confined to cities, because it requires some little skill to grow it, and gardeners in the suburbs can make it a paying crop. It might be cultivated with advantage in every garden.

As to the preservation of celery—if you live near a market, it is best to leave it with the market-man, buying only as you use it. We have tried various methods of keeping it in a celler, but have never succeeded well. Some recommend banking it in moist sand, and this will probably succeed as well as any thing. If you grow the article yourself, you can keep it best in the trenches, taking out a supply for two or three weeks as you wish it. The trench you design to use first, before the ground freezes solid for the winter, will be sufficiently protected by a covering of sea weed, or refuse straw, a foot thick. That which you wish to preserve till January, and later, should have a little house made over it. If your earthing up is not too high, two wide boards set upon their edges, on each side of the plants, and then inclined until they meet at the top, like a letter A, will answer very well. We have fine celery preserved in this way, at this date, May 1st. The tops are somewhat shortened by the frost, but the core is perfectly sound.

BROOKLYN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Semi-Annual Exhibition of this large and flourishing Society takes place at the Athenaeum, (corner of Atlantic and Clinton streets,) on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week. The exhibition will be first opened to the public, at 3 o'clock, P. M., on Wednesday, and continue open on the following two days, from 7 A. M. to 10 P. M. We unhesitatingly recommend every lover of good vegetables, fine plants, and rare and beautiful flowers to visit this exhibition.

This Society, though young, already numbers four or five hundred members; and they have thus far shown a spirit and enterprise worthy of commendation, and of imitation by other societies. From what we can learn, we judge that this exhibition will equal, if not far exceed, any similar exhibition yet held in this section of the country.

BONES IN THE GARDEN.

We are, every season, discovering fresh evidence of the great value of bones as a fertilizer. We have to-day, been removing some pie plant, seedling of the Victoria, that were set out with bones under them last spring. The roots had, in many instances, completely penetrated the bones, so that they were lifted with the roots. They help the formation of small fibrous roots, and make the growth of the plants very vigorous. In removing a grape vine last season, we noticed the same fact. We now consider bones, or their equivalent, as indispensable in the garden. We put from a half to a whole bushel in every hole in which we set a fruit tree. The season of tree planting is not yet over; and we would say to our friends, make your holes broad and deep, and use bones liberally, if you would have a quick growth and fine fruit.

An Imperial Bouquet.—A bouquet to be offered by the Horticultural Society of Toulouse to the Empress of the French, was exhibited there on Sunday, at the capitol in the Salle du Trone, where a vast crowd went to see it. Not less than 10,000 violets and 300 camellias have been employed in this gigantic boquet, which is 2½ feet in diameter by 3 feet high. It is composed of a dome of violets surrounded by a circle of camellias, garlands of these last running down the dome, on which are to be seen the initials of her Majesty in orange flowers. A blue riband, also having the cipher of her Majesty, ties the stem of the bouquet. This beautiful object left Toulouse on Monday, and was to be presented to her Majesty on Wednesday, by M. Duplan, member of the Legislative Body, President of the Horticultural Society of the Haute Garonne.

American Agriculturist.

New-York, Wednesday, May 10, 1854.

BOUND VOLUMES.—We have a few sets (26 numbers) of volume eleventh, bound and unbound. The price, at the office, of the unbound volumes is $1.00. The bound volumes are neatly put up in cloth covers, gilt backs, at $1.50.

We can also furnish the covers separately, gilt and all ready for putting in the paper, for twenty-five cents each. With the covers thus prepared, any bookbinder can complete the binding for twenty-five cents. Volumes sent to the office will be bound complete for fifty cents.

We are having printed a new edition of the first ten annual volumes of the monthly *Agriculturist*, which can be supplied for $1.25 per volume or $10 for the set of ten volumes.

BACK NUMBERS.—We have taken the precaution to print each week a large number of extra copies, so that we can still supply new subscribers with full sets from the beginning of this volume, (March 15.) Any copies accidentally lost by a subscriber, will be freely supplied. Specimen copies sent to any person, whose address is furnished post-paid.

BREEDING TURKEYS.

EVERY turkey breeder is not aware of it, but it is a fact, that of either sex, one old turkey is worth two yearlings for rearing young ones. A turkey does not arrive at its full growth and maturity till the next fall after two years old, and of consequence, to its full strength and vigor for breeding in the best possible manner. The continual repetition of keeping young gobblers and pullets for breeding, as some people do, reduces the size of their young until they arrive at scarcely half the weight they should do. Besides this, the young of these immature birds are exceedingly tender, and much more difficult to raise than those of old birds. We have tried this thing thoroughly, and are convinced of the difference.

Were we to choose our birds for the very best breeding, both cocks and hens should not be less than three years old, and then the cock should be from a different stock from the hens. We think turkeys bear breeding from close affinities less successfully than any other fowl—at least we have found it so—and we would never breed a cock to hens which were closely related, if it could be helped.

Another thing, we prefer to let every hen set upon her own eggs, and with the first laying of the season. She hatches them better than a barn-door hen, and is the most natural and satisfactory mother. We have repeatedly set the first laying of eggs under the common hen, and turned the turkey out for a second clutch of eggs, on which she sat herself. But these second chicks are apt to be weaker than the first, and so late as not to obtain a fair growth before cold weather sets in—in fact, not worth half price. The turkey is a *natural* bird in all its habits, domesticated from a wild state, and yet retaining the constitutional propensities of its original race. Therefore the young should be reared in their *proper* season, when the varieties of food they are partial to are the most abundant. Every young turkey should be out of the shell by the middle of June, at the latest, which gives them full time to get up to good size by "Thanksgiving," and fat and juicy by Christmas.

In corroboration of our remarks, there were turkeys exhibited at the late Poultry Show at the American Museum, in this city, which weighed 30½ pounds the cock, and 18 pounds the hen. These were extraordinary birds, to be sure, but they were well bred, and of full age and growth—and not wild turkies, either. Mr. JOHN GILES, of Woodstock, Ct., sent us a cock turkey a few weeks ago, which weighs 33 pounds,—a giant of a fellow,—and he walks the poultry-yard with the measured tread of an emperor. We shall see whether we cannot increase the size and excellence of our turkeys by choice breeding. At the English shows they have got turkeys up to 40 pounds weight; and it will be a poor story, if, in the native country of the bird, with our fine, dry climate, and abundance of food, we cannot get him up to the standard of a climate less favorable to his development.

Many people suppose that the wild turkey is larger than the tame one. This is not so. Extraordinary exceptions have been found, when, in the height of the nutting season, with the wild bird at its fattest, a veteran gobbler has been shot that weighed 30 pounds or more. But well bred, at the same age, and in like condition, the tame turkey is the larger bird. We would, however, for a fresh cross, and to give the domestic turkeys additional stamina, prefer a dash of wild blood among them. It is wonderful to see the invigorating influences of the wild blood upon the tame in the first progeny. The style of the bird, in figure, plumage, action—all are changed. A degree of self-reliance is added to the young things as they creep and dodge among the leaves, "shirking for themselves." One single cross is sufficient—that is—half blood. More than that, is apt to give them shy and rambling habits, as it takes several generations of domestication to make the wild turkey thoroughly tame.

The wild turkey is truly a noble bird. Standing erect upon the ground, surrounded by his harem of females; proud, defiant, confiding in his own strength and prowess; his gorgeous, metallic plumage glistening in the sun, no living bird is equal to him. Even the Peacock, in all its attributes of beauty, will not rank with him. No wonder that AUDUBON grew eloquent, grand, and enthusiastic over his description.

As to color—the natural—that of the wild is the most to our taste. We have tried all colors. Light colored birds are apt to be less hardy than dark, and flesh less rich in appearance. Still, color is not essential, when the bird is, in all else, satisfactory.

AN INLAND GRAIN FLEET.—On the 26th of April a fleet of nineteen vessels, (three barks, six brigs, and ten schooners,) all freighted with grain, sailed from Chicago, Ill., for Buffalo, and for Oswego, via. Welland Canal. They were loaded with more than a quarter of a million bushels of grain, including 208,000 bushels of corn, and 33,000 bushels of wheat. More than four-fifths of this grain went to Buffalo.

THE FIRST FAIR OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A STATE Society is at length organized in this good old State, and the fair is to be held at New-Haven next fall. Twenty-five hundred dollars have been raised by the city to meet its expenses. The name of the Hon. EDWARD EVERETT has been mentioned in connection with the address on the occasion. No pains will be spared to make the fair worthy of the State. It is proposed to have a Board of Agriculture for the State, and a secretary to give all his time to the work of agricultural improvement. The cause as much needs such an agent, as education needs a commissioner of schools; and it is hoped that the farming interest will soon have such an advocate as the school interest has found in the Hon. HENRY BARNARD. Not less than twenty-five hundred dollars will be needed to support such an office, which it is proposed to raise, and we have little doubt that this will be done. Connecticut is not a State to overlook what will be so much to her pecuniary advantage.

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY.

IF we were asked by one just beginning to collect a library, what books should first be selected, we should unhesitatingly answer, let the *first* book be the Bible, and the *second* Webster's Dictionary—not a small pocket edition, but the best and most complete edition yet published, viz., the one issued by the Messrs. G. & C. MERRIAM, of Springfield, Mass.

The ordinary term *Dictionary* conveys a very imperfect idea of the work referred to. Encyclopedia would be a better word. There is hardly a word or term used in the whole circle of our language which is not here elucidated. To give the spelling and simple definition of a word is but a small part of the scope of this book. Almost every scientific term or phrase in use, is so fully and plainly described, as to bring it to the comprehension of the humblest scholar or reader. We have frequently turned over the leaves of one book of reference after another, in a vain search for the meaning of some scientific term which was new to us, and then have found all we desired in reference to it plainly stated in this dictionary.

We think the Messrs. MERRIAM deserve the thanks of the country for the manner in which they have brought out this work. It contains 1400 large pages, in good substantial binding, and yet the highest retail price asked for it is only six dollars. Twenty-five dollars could in no other way be expended to gather so much general information. Let every farmer, and every other person who can do so, have a copy of this book upon his table; and let it not be laid away in the parlor to be admired by an occasional visitor, but let it be kept in the most convenient place of access, where it may be daily referred to and studied. When a newspaper or book presents a word not entirely understood, let this dictionary be opened, and it will pretty surely make all plain.

Several States have furnished their public schools with a copy of this work, and we sincerely hope every other State will follow the example. In several instances where this book has not been furnished by the usual school funds, we have taken a subscription paper, and

in a few hours collected from small sums, enough to purchase the work and place it upon the teacher's desk.

A TIMELY MAP.—Messrs. ENSIGN, BRIDGEMAN, & FANNING have just issued a very convenient map of Europe, which shows on a large scale, the location and relative position of the various countries likely to be affected by the present war. We have examined a copy, and find it just the thing to refer to on the arrival of news from over the Atlantic. If children now studying geography, can have such a map for constant reference, it will materially assist them in fixing their knowledge of this important division of the earth's surface. For price, &c., see advertisement.

CRYSTAL PALACE RE-OPENING.

THIS interesting ceremony took place on Thursday of last week. The exercises consisted of speeches by several distinguished men, and delightful music discoursed by various celebrated musical societies and bands, and individual singers and musicians. The attendance was very large—we have not seen a statement of the numbers present, but think that from thirty to forty thousand persons visited the Palace between 8 A. M. and 10 P. M. We were pleased to find that in the reöpening exercises, the rightful claims of labor were duly recognized. The artists and mechanics were treated as the real designers, artificers, and patrons of the World's Industrial Exhibition, and due honor was awarded to them.

We missed a few curious and interesting objects that were on exhibition last autumn, but we also noticed many new additions, and on the whole the general value of the Exhibition is not materially lessened, while there is a promise of a constant influx of the productions of art and labor. We expect to be well repaid for making a good many visits yet, and we advise all who can do so, to plan an excursion to this really grand collection. No one should come expecting to be satisfied with one or two half-day visits. The first day may well be devoted to a general survey of the building and the aggregate mass of objects, while future visits may be occupied with more particular examinations of the different departments. We shall at another time enumerate some of the more interesting objects.

WHITE FLAX SEED.

IN reference to the White or Canary colored flax seed alluded to last week, we have seen a letter addressed to Messrs. ABRAHAM BELL & SON, of this city, from which we make the following extract:

The grower of this seed asserts that he obtained 15 to 18 bushels of the white flax seed, where the same soil and space of land yielded only 7 or 8 bushels of the common kind of seed; and he claims that the lint produced from the fiber is worth double the price of the ordinary production, from its delicate and silken properties. I cannot positively vouch for the facts, as alleged, but believe you can safely reïterate them. Of one thing, however, I am certain, that the oil expressed from it is of as light color as if it had been bleached, and it is a good thing if half that is told about it be true.

Messrs. BELL & SON expect to have a supply of this seed next spring. In the meantime as we have received a small parcel, we shall be happy to send an ounce or so to a few of our friends, who may desire to test the truth of the above statements.

For the American Agriculturist.

THE ASPARAGUS PEA—COW PEA.

ENCLOSED is a sample of the Asparagus Pea in the pod, also seeds of the same. They require a trellis or brush a few feet high to run on. The pods have been grown here to measure three feet long. To cook, snap them into pieces of suitable length, and boil the same as asparagus, then serve up on toast with pepper, &c.

I likewise enclose a variety of the Cow Pea, which is the earliest to mature with us. Perhaps you may succeed in ripening them, and thus acclimating this very valuable food for man and beast. It is not as delicate for the table as other and later varieties. The origin of the Cow Pea is not known with certainty. This variety is called the "Goose Craw," from the fact that it was originally found in the crop of a wild goose shot here. An endless variety of the Cow Pea is cultivated at the south; and but for their ameliorating properties, our land would ere this have become barren. *It is the clover of the south.* JAMES G. ROWE.

Aikin, N. C.

The above seeds are at our office, and we shall be pleased to distribute them among those desirous of experimenting with them. Mr. ROWE informs us that we mistook him in saying, in a late number of the *Agriculturist*, that the Orange Melon originated in the mountains of North Carolina, it was there *he first saw it.* The origin he does not know.

POTATO ROT.

A FEW days since we spent some time in conversation with the writer of the letter given below. Mr. COREY has evidently given considerable attention to the potato disease, and feels quite confident that he has discovered the true cause and at least a partial remedy. He wishes to pursue his investigations during the present season, and to have a few others also test his theories before they are given to the public. We have had no great faith in any remedy proposed for eradicating this disease, but we will do Mr. COREY the justice to say that his reasonings appeared plausible. We shall endeavor to experiment somewhat this season. This letter contains some good suggestions aside from its connection with what Mr. COREY deems a new and valuable discovery.

For the American Agriculturist.

FACTS WORTH KNOWING.

The potato rot may be propagated by means of diseased seedlings. Hence, much care should be exercised in the selection of potatoes for planting. There are but very few potatoes found in the market entirely free from this disease. The dry scab on the surface ordinarily indicates it as certainly as do the dark putrid spots within. Frequently the two show a diseased connection. For planting purposes, select those potatoes whose surfaces are the most free from all blemishes. Examine them attentively around the stem, eyes, &c., seeing also that there is no internal affection. If resort must be had to those which show signs of disease, cut out deeply all affected parts. It is far better to cut out and plant simply the potato eyes, including a reasonable quantity of the potato, than to plant whole potatoes which are in the least affected. Here an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. Elevated lands with a loose soil are better as respects this blight, than low lands naturally wet and heavy. New clearings recently burnt over, planted with healthy seedlings, are, other things being equal, least liable to said disease. Ground that has been well stirred and aired, and kept clean as in thorough cultivation of corn, for one or two prior seasons, is better than sod or stubble ground. Stable manure purified by filtration, with a mixture of salt, lime, and water, liberally applied to each hill at the time of planting, will tend to increase the crop and to counteract the disease. Plaster, lime, or ashes applied to the vines during their growing process, will have the same tendencies.

The potato rot, judging from its nature, is probably destined to always remain in all countries where it now exists; and, under the ordinary mode of cultivating the potato, is likely in warm wet seasons to increase. Much of the evil, however, arising from this disease, may be prevented on perfectly scientific principles at a moderate expense, when its true nature shall have become generally known and heeded.

The above remarks, all which are respectfully submitted, are based on known facts, gathered from investigations and experiments made during several consecutive years. C. COREY.

Lima, Ind., April 15th, 1854.

For the American Agriculturist.

A SUBSCRIBER'S OPINION OF THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST.

CROPS IN PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE.

WE have received hundreds of flattering notices from our cotemporaries and from subscribers, which are a source of encouragement to us in our efforts to furnish a reliable and instructive paper. We do not think it just to our readers to occupy space to publish these, however much it might gratify our vanity. We will, however, depart from our usual custom, and insert the following letter, as it more particularly interests some of our correspondents than ourselves. We see the writer is "marriageable," and we publicly hand him over "to those interested." Here is his letter:

McDONOUGH, Del., April 25, 1854.

GENTLEMEN:—I subscribed to your paper for six months to try it, and although that time is scarcely half out, I send you the dollar needed to finish the year, while I think of it, for I say in all candor that it would be a great disappointment to miss it for only one week. In the first place, I think its pages are filled with matter just suited to the taste, wants, and comprehension of the farmer, and it does not depart from its legitimate sphere for the purpose of "filling up," which is so general among our agricultural journals. The articles are so seasonable too, every number containing the very information needed and wished for at the time of its arrival.

Not least interesting, are the articles written by your fair correspondents. I like them, and take great pleasure in looking them up, and reading them too—and that frequently more than once. I think the portion of your paper occupied by them, affords to the whole the savor of an exceedingly well-relished spice, and such as is found in very few of its kind, if in any, in so acceptable a form. I hope they will be continued, and increased in number, rather than otherwise. It strikes me very forcibly that they would make capital farmers' wives, (if they are not already.) Now, I am a young farmer, and some say I need, and I know I want a wife—and one that has a heart as good as some of your correspondents' articles indicate them to possess, if that is not aiming to high for me. The fact is, the ladies here take so little interest in farming, that it does me good to even hear of one who loves the occupation well enough to induce her to contribute to the happiness of its

followers only with her pen; and I believe the best stimulus to arouse to action the many who need it, would be to read the beautiful and instructive articles of their sisters. These have at least contributed their full share in making me, on so short an acquaintance, so strong a friend of the *American Agriculturist.*

But it is a lamentable fact that the ladies are not alone to blame, for even those who, as a class, are immediately engaged in agriculture, read far too little, particularly on such subjects as concern their own business. Many cry out as soon as an agricultural paper is mentioned, "I don't believe in book-farming." I have, as yet, never heard that expression from one to whom the language of "Minnie Myrtle" would not be applicable, namely, "A little book knowledge, practically applied," would be of considerable advantage. In truth, I consider the man who ridicules the idea that reading is beneficial to the farmer, a parallel case, as regards ignorance, with an Irishman employed on a farm not far from here, who, to tilt a cart, tried hard, it is said, to make the oxen stand on their hind feet. I should like all my friends to enjoy the same treat, and to share the same pleasure it gives me to peruse the pages of the *Agriculturist.* I hope they soon will, if they do not, I cannot help them further than to inform them of its existence. But I am saying too much for a social talk to one I never saw. I ask your pardon. I feel in some respects like your "Boy from Down East," who did not know how to stop.

For the last few days the farm operations have been partially suspended, owing to the four days' storm, which has made the ground, in many places, too wet to work. In Chester County, Pa., near the Lancaster line, I found that sleighing, and the other usual pleasant and unpleasant accompaniments of "second edition of winter," had been there in abundance. By the way, I think there are some ladies in that county, who practically exhibit such industry, generosity, gentleness, and intelligence, as should characterize that noble and lovely class of persons, the "Farmers' Daughters."

But spring is again here, the weather is now pleasant, the oats and grass begin to show very prettily; the wheat, far and near, at least in Chester County, Pa., and New-Castle County, Del., promises to yield most abundantly, and the corn, though it will be a week or more later than was anticipated, will be now speedily planted, and in good time. On the whole, it is thought the storm has done the farmers no great injury, and we now commence the season once more, "full of glee, and take its labor cheerily." J. H.

ABSORBING POWER OF SOILS.

It has been long known to chemists that clay possesses, to a small extent, the power of absorbing and fixing ammonia; but Mr. Way has shown that all fertile soils are capable of absorbing not only that substance, but the alkalies and magnesia. Thus, if a soil be shaken up with water containing a small quantity of ammonia or any of its salts in solution, and then left to deposit, the clear fluid drawn from the surface is found to be entirely free of ammonia. This absorption, however, is confined to the ammonia, none of the acid with which it is combined being retained by the soil. Thus, if sulphate of ammonia be employed, the whole of the sulphuric acid is found in the fluid combined with lime. A true chemical decomposition has here occurred, lime derived from the soil having replaced the ammonia in its compound. The extent to which the absorption of these substances takes place is small, and has, as yet, been accurately ascertained only with regard to ammonia and potash. It differs greatly according to the nature of the soil, and whether the substance is employed in the pure state or combined with acids. Thus, a loamy soil from Dorsetshire absorbed 0.3921 per cent. of ammonia; a lighter soil from Berkshire took up 0.1570, and a sub-soil clay from Somerset only 0.0818. In regard to potash, the experiments published by Mr. Way refer only to a sort of pottery clay, which takes up 0.4366, per cent. from the nitrate and 1.05 from a solution of pure caustic potash. Direct experiment has shown that this absorptive power is not due to sand; and as it is found to exist in pure potter's clay, brought up from a considerable depth, Mr. Way infers that it does not depend on organic matters, but is entirely due to the clay. In a later paper he has extended his investigations, and starting from the obvious fact that the absorption could not be due to the clay as a whole, but rather to some particular substance existing in it, and possessing a high degree of absorptive power, he has inquired into the subject in this point of view, and arrived at results of much practical and scientific interest. As it was manifestly impossible to extract from the clay the supposed substances to which its absorptive power was attributed, he adopted a different mode of investigation. He first proved that felspar, albite, and the other minerals from which the clay of our soils is produced, have no absorbent effect, and then proceeded to try what could be done by the artificial formation of substances of similar nature. When silicate of soda is added to a solution of alum, a white powder is formed which is a compound of silicate of allumina and silicate of soda, and this, when treated with a salt of lime, gives a similar compound, containing lime in place of soda. When this substance is macerated with a salt of potash or ammonia, it is decomposed, and there are formed double compounds contalning these substances, and nearly insoluble in water. The potash compound so formed contains 24 per cent. of potash, and that of ammonia contains about 5 per cent. These substances are so little soluble in water, that a gallon extracts from them only 2.27 grains of potash, and little more than 1 grain of ammonia. The practical inference from these facts is sufficiently obvious; suppose the soil to contain the silicate of lime and alumina, and a quantity of sulphate of ammonia to be employed as a manure, we should necessarily have produced the absorptive effect actually observed in practice; sulphate of lime would be formed, and the ammonia would pass into the sparingly soluble double silicate of alumina and ammonia, which would thus become a magazine from which that important element of our crops would be slowly liberated to the extent of a grain for every gallon of water, so as to fulfil the requirements of the plant. The solubility of these compounds is however so small, that in some instances a sufficient quantity of potash and ammonia might not be obtained by the plant, were it not that their solubility is remarkably increased by carbonic acid and common salt. Mr. Way found that a gallon of water saturated with carbonic acid gas dissolved 2.5 grains of ammonia from its compound, and a solution containing 1.97 per cent. of common salt dissolved out ammonia at the rate of 23 grains per gallon. We have thus another function which carbonic acid may possess, and in addition to that of acting as a food for the plant, it may serve as the agent by means of which an additional supply of other substances is presented to it. The fact just mentioned may also explain the effect produced by common salt, which has always been a difficulty, especially since we have seen reason to believe soda is of little importance as a food of plants. We have already alluded to the absorption of phosphoric acid, which is in no degree dependent upon these double silicates, but solely on the presence of lime in the soil, with which it forms an insoluble compound. It cannot be doubted that these observations are of much importance, and have a very important bearing on the practice of agriculture. I cannot help thinking, however, that Mr. Way carries his views too far, when he denies any absorbont influence to the organic matters of the soil, and attributes it exclusively to these double silicates. It has been distinctly proved that humus absorbs and retains ammonia and its carbonate; and though I do not know that the experiment has been tried, the humate of lime (which certainly exists in the soil) ought on chemical grounds to decompose the salts of ammonia, and form the humus of ammonia, which retains its base with great obstinacy. It must also be remembered that it has not been proved that these double silicates actually do exist in the soil, but only inferred, that because when artificially produced they absorb ammonia, they may be the cause of the same effect in the soil. Difficulties even exist in explaining how they should be formed there; but, with all this, it is manifest that the inquiry is an important contribution to our knowledge of the chemistry of the soil. But we must beware lest we carry too far the inferences to be deduced from those experiments, and I think there is rather a tendency to do so. The absorptive power of soils is a convenient phrase which I have sometimes heard used, as if sufficiently explaining facts otherwise unintelligible, although a very little consideration might have shown that they could not possibly have any connection with it.—*Dr. Anderson's Address before the Highland Agricultural Society.*

Boys' Corner.

PERSEVERANCE—ITS VALUE.

About ten years ago, there was a little newsboy—very little for his age, which was fourteen years—who sold papers at the corner now occupied by the Tribune buildings and its adjuncts. This boy, owing to his cheerful countenance, his proverbial integrity and industry—in brief, his good qualities generally, (and very good qualities are rarely found among the peripatetic venders of the dailies and weeklies,) manufactured friends for himself every where, especially among the publishers. He did very good business as a news-boy, but his position did not suit him, as he once confidentially informed us, and he was determined to abandon it.

"That you can easily do," said we, "go into a store."

"I can neither read nor write," responded he mournfully.

"Apprentice yourself to some trade;" was then our advice.

"I think I will," he exclaimed with a brightening eye and a flushed cheek, "I think I will," and off he bounded.

We lost sight of him a short time after this conference was held, and finally forgot that such a being had existed.

About a week ago, an athletic, well-dressed man, with a ferocious—a regular brigandish—pair of whiskers, and a brace of merry, twinkling optics, that betokened a good heart and the best of health, stopped us in the street, and extending his hand, called us by name.

Not recognizing him we had recourse to the phrase of "Really, sir, you have the advantage of me."

"Not know ——, the little news-boy?" he cried, as if astonished.

Truly it was our little news-boy. He had taken our advice and apprenticed himself to a machinest.

"Where are you working?" we inquired of him.

"Oh, I don't work now," was his proud answer: "I own a sawmill on Long Island, and am doing business for myself. I have been my own boss for a year now. I bought out my concern with the savings of eight years, have a wife and two children, and my own cottage house and garden for them to live and delve in, and am as happy as the day is long. I can read and write, too," he continued smiling with an air of triumph.

That man will be *somebody* besides a boss yet. If we dared tell his name, hundreds would at once hail with rapture the good fortune of

their little friend who once supplied them with the *Sun* and *Herald* every morning.

Perseverance.—It is the grand lever by which the most astounding results may be accomplished. George Barrow, the author of Lavengro says, "Perseverance and a dogged determination to conquer all difficulties, will invariably make a man of the veriest dolt."

Do you hear that boys? No matter how poor or ignorant you may be, perseverance, conjoined with virtue, will gain you both wealth and education.

CAPITAL FOR THE YOUNG.—It is a consolation for all right-minded young men in this country, that though they might not be able to command as much pecuniary capital as they would wish to commence business themselves, yet there is a moral capital which they can have, that will weigh as much as money with those people whose opinion is worth having. And it does not take a great while to accumulate a respectable amount of this capital. It consists in truth, honesty, and integrity; to which may be added, decision, courage and perseverance. With these qualities there are few obstacles which cannot be overcome. Friends spring up and surround such a young man as if by magic. Confidence flows out to him, and business accumulates on his hands faster than he can ask it. And in a few short years such a young man is far in advance of many, who started with him, having equal talents, and larger pecuniary means; ere long our young friend stands foremost, the honored, trusted and loved. Would that we could induce every youthful reader to commence life on the principle that moral capital is the thing after all.—*Token.*

A CUTE BOY.—A little boy had a colt and a dog, and his generosity was often tried by visitors asking him—"just to see what he would say"—to give them one or both of his pets. One day he told a gentleman present he might have his colt—reserving the dog, much to the surprise of his mother, who asked:

"Why, Jacky, why didn't you give him the dog?"

"Say nothin', say nothin', mother, when he goes to get the colt, I'll set the dog on him!"

A GOOD BOY.—A touching incident occured recently at a steamboat sinking in the Missouri river. Among the persons swept overboard was a woman and a boy 12 years of age. A man upon the steamboat, seeing the boy buffeting the waters just beyond the boat, threw him a rope, and called to the little fellow to take hold of it. He replied—"never mind me, I can swim—save mamma." The little fellow, with his dear mamma, was saved.

ENERGY.—See how that fellow works! no obstacle is too great for him to surmount, no ocean too wide for him to leap, no mountain too high for him to scale. He will make a stir in the world and no mistake.

Such are the men who build our railroads, dig up the mountains in California and enrich the world. There is nothing gained by idleness and sloth. This is the world of action, and to make money, gain a reputation, and exert a happy influence, men must be active, persevering, and energetic. They must not quail at shadows, run from lions, or attempt to dodge the lightning. Go forward zealously in whatever you undertake, and we will risk you, any where, and through life.

THE PURE BREED.—"Are these pure canaries?" asked a gentleman of a bird-dealer, with whom he was negociating for a "gift for his fair."

"Yes sir," said the dealer, confidently, "I raised them 'ere birds from canary seed."

Miscellaneous.

HOW BOYS AND GIRLS ARE REARED.

TO PARENTS.

AN article by Dr. Dixon, published in *The Scalpel* some time ago, is just now attracting some attention in the English papers. It is on the early decay of American women.

We give (says the doctor) the girl two years the start of the boy, to make her condition equal to his at the outset. Both have endured the torture of bandaging, pinning, and tight dress at birth; both have been rocked, jounced upon the knee; papa'd, laudanum'd, paregoric'd castor oil'd, and suffocated with a blanket over the head, sweltered with a cap and feathers, roasted at a fire of anthracite, and poisoned with the foul air of an unventilated chamber, according to the universal formula of some superannuated doctor or inexperienced nurse; probably both, for these people usually hunt in couples, and are very gracious to each other. We give the girl enough start to make up for the benefit the boy has derived from chasing the cat, and an occasional tumble in the hall or the yard, and the torture she has endured from her sampler and being compelled to "sit up straight," and not to be a "hoyden."

Our little couple start to school with such a minimum of lungs as the unnatural life they have led will allow, and a stomach that is yet fresh enough to endure bad bread, plum-cake, candies, and diseased milk. The reader will remember that Nature is beneficent, and will endure much abuse before she succumbs. Well they are off for school; observe how circumspectly my little miss walks. Soon she chides her brother for being "rude." He, nothing daunted, starts, full tilt after a stray dog or pig; and though he often tumbles in the mud, and his clothes are spoiled, the result is soon visible in increase of lungs and ruddy cheeks. He cannot run without more breath; he cannot continue to run without increased dimension and power of lungs; he cannot have large lungs without good digestion; he will feel well and thrive apace.

They are now at school, seated on a bench without a back, and often with their legs hanging down, so that the poor back-bone has no earthly support. Thus sits the wretched child with book in hand, from nine till twelve o'clock and sometimes until three. The boy, with the aid of sticking a pin now and then in his neighbor, and occasionally falling from his bench from pure nervous exhaustion, to the great relief of his half-stagnant blood vessels and torpid nerves, endures it until another merciful pig or dog-chase makes him feel that he is alive.

But our unfortunate little miss is in a distressed condition. She is charged to walk "straight home," where she is allowed to select her dinner from those articles that afford the least nutrition, such as pastry, cake, rich puddings, and apples. This, by the way, is her second meal of the same character, having taken one either at breakfast or lunch.

After dinner, she either sits down at her sampler or piano, and in all probability finishes the day's feeding with tea and preserves. She is then posted off to a feather-bed in an unventilated room, with the door shut for fear the little darling will take cold. A Nott's stove or furnace keeps the upper chambers from 85 deg. to 100 deg., the feather bed and blankets retain all the heat of the body, and sweltering the wretched little creature lies till morning. What wonder she gets spinal curvature, or that there are actual deposits of tubercles in the body of her vertebræ or lungs.

"MY son," said an old lady, "how must Jonah have felt when the whale swallowed him?"

"Down in the mouth," was the hopeful's reply.

I CAN DRINK OR LET IT ALONE.

"I CAN drink or let it alone," is a pass-word by which many young men have entered and become initiated into the lodge of intemperance, and have ultimately taken all the degrees, from the first social glass with a friend, when the bloom of health was on his cheek, the eye sparkling and bright, the step firm and elastic, the head clear, and prospects for the future bright and flattering; from a time when a father looked with feelings of pride upon his son, and felt that the money he had expanded in his training and education had been well invested, and his name would be handed with honor to posterity—from the time, when a mother, who had watched over her darling boy so many anxious hours, and sleepless nights, and felt so much solicitude lest some lack of attention on *her* part, should cause sorrow or pain on *his*, was never *doubly* paid, as she looked upon him a man, feeling she had a staff to lean upon in her declining years—from the time when a sister, with feelings of pride introduced to her friends and acquaintances, "*My Brother,—*" *down! down!!* to the time when that father's grey hairs have been brought in sorrow to the grave—to the time when that mother had wept oceans of scalding tears over her wayward boy, and had only been borne up by the hope that she might yet reclaim him ere he was laid in a "drunkard's grave,"—to the time when the sister had given up all her entreaties as fruitless, and shuddered when she heard the name of "brother"—and, perchance, to the time when a wife, whom he had, but a few years previously sworn at the alter to love, cherish and protect, and who had clung to him through every step of his downward career with a wife's devotion, looked upon her husband and felt that she was *more* than *widowed*, and her children *worse* than *orphans*. With the excuse, I say, (that heads this article) of "I can drink or let it alone," more men have passed through all the degrees of intemperance, I have so poorly pictured, until they are laid in the churchyard, and have left in the minds of the community in which they lived the knowledge, (if not inscribed on their tombstones) that they were *suicides*, than any other excuse that was ever offered in extenuation of the use of alcholic drinks. Young man! I know from observation and experience, that you *cannot "drink or let it alone."* If you drink at all, *you will drink as occasion offers*, and the occasional "social glass with a friend," as you accidentally meet, will result in seeking a friend to drink with, and end in drinking as often as it can be obtained.

The only safe course is, *not* to *"drink or let it alone,"* but to *"let it alone."* For one I shall do so, and the following are among my reasons:

1st. I know it is injurious to my health, from this simple fact, if I had no other proofs, viz.: no person in a healthy condition can drink a glass of alcholic liquor for the first time without feeling an effect upon the brain and nervous system—in fact, without becoming to a certain extent drunk. Consequently any thing that throws the system out of its natural healthy action, *must be injurious.* 2d. I know that it is injurious to my character, because no respectable man can be in the constant use of it without being sometimes thrown into the company of those far beneath him in morals and standing in society. "A man is known by the company he keeps," and the natural tendency is to lower yourself down until the scales are evenly balanced with those who had been far beneath. I know it is injurious to success in business pursuits, because not an individual can be found who would employ a person in any important business transactions who is in the habit of using strong drinks; and on the other hand, the best recommendation is to be known as a "temperance man." I know that it is injurious in a *pecuniary point*, because a *moderate drinker* who only takes his "*eye-opener*" in the morning, his "*eleven o'clock*" in the forenoon, his "*four o'clock*" in the afternoon, and his "*night cap*,"

expends in one year, *ninety-one dollars and twenty-five cents*, and ten years *thirteen hundred and six dollars and forty cents*. Those who drink two and three times as often may add for themselves. I know it is injurious to *communities*, because in those where it is most used, *there is the most poverty*. I know it is injurious to *human happiness*, because it has caused more murders, more suicides, tenanted more prisons and alms-houses, and caused more sighs and tears, and made more widows and orphans than all other evils combined.—*Salem Observer*.

SHEEP-SHEARING FESTIVAL IN WISCONSIN.—The Wisconsin State Agricultural Society, with a view to promoting the interests of sheep husbandry in that State, have instituted an annual "sheep-shearing festival." The first of these festivals is to be held at Whitewater on the 31st inst.

CATTLE FOR CALIFORNIA.—The Osceola (Iowa) *Independent* of last week says:

The number of cattle crossing the river at this place within the last month, from the different counties in the southwest, *en route* for California, is variously estimated at from five to six thousand.

WHEAT IN MICHICAN.—The editor of *The Lapeer Democrat* says:

"While other portions of the State are complaining of the sad appearance of the wheat crop, owing to its being winter-killed, the farmers of Lapeer County have reason to congratulate themselves that they have a prospect of a fair crop.

This is the case generally in the north part of the State, but the south part complains of great loss.

FLUSHING, L. I., April 15.

THE WEATHER AND CROPS.—A large part of the peach buds are said to be winter-killed in this neighborhood. A good crop is not looked for.

WARREN CO., O., April 12.

There is a good deal of complaint here of winter-killed wheat. It is pretty certain it will not be as good as last year, but I hope not as bad as the croakers would have you believe. Our prospect for fruit is pretty good. It is certain that all the peach buds have not been killed by the cold.

SANDUSKY, April, 11.

As the spring advances the wheat crop is more promising. It is my opinion we shall have an average crop.

JERSEY CO., ILL., April 9.

The prospect of a wheat crop has not been better for years. The fields are carpeted with green, and the weather is promising.

GREAT FALL OF RAIN.—The fall of rain from Wednesday to Saturday of last week, according to the New-York Hospital guage, was five inches and ten-hundredths; and according to the Flatbush rain guage, five inches and neneteyfour hundredths this is not so heavy a fall of rain as was recorded at Flatbush in 1843, for on the 50th, 21st and 22d of August of that year, nine inches and seventy-hundredths of an inch fell.

The fall of rain in Philadelphia, from Thursday afternoon until noon, was nearly 3¼ inches.

AN OLD ROCK.—An old bachelor geologist was boasting that every rock was as familiar to him as the alphabet. A lady who was present, declared that she knew of a rock of which he was wholly ignorant. "Name it, madam!" cried Cœlebs, in a rage. "It is *rock the cradle*, sir," replied the lady.

IN the choice of a wife, take the obedient daughter of a good mother.

MAN *versus* HORSE.—Last week, a trial of strength came off at Burscough Bridge, under the following circumstances. It appears that a wager of a quarter cask of ale had been made between a well-known wheelwright of the neighborhood, and a brewer from near Ormskirk, that ten men could not draw a load of stone up Burscough Bridge, which a pair of horses had previously done. The wheelwright backed the men, and the brewer the horses. On the day appointed, the horses brought from the quarry, for the use of the Wigan and Southport Railway, a load of stone of about 50 cwts., weighing, with the cart, upwards of three and a half tons. This load they took to the top of the bridge and down again. The worthy wheelwright now marshalled the force, consisting of nine stalwart young men belonging to the neighborhood. A cross piece of wood was firmly fixed to the shafts, supported by as many of the men as could attach themselves to it, the rest either dragging or pushing, and in this manner, cheered on by the the acclamations of an immense crowd, they dragged the ponderous load up the bridge with the greatest ease, the knight of the wheel thus winning the wager with one man less than his stipulated number.

WE MUST ADVANCE.—Perhaps there is no higher proof of the excellency of man than this—that to a mind properly cultivated, whatever is bounded is little. The mind is continually laboring to advance, step by step, through successive gradations of excellence, towards perfection, which is dimly seen, at a great, though not hopeless distance, and which we must always follow because we never can attain; but the pursuit rewards itself; one truth teaches another, and our store is always increasing, though nature can never be exhausted.—*Sir Joshua Reynolds*.

DOMESTIC HAPPINESS.—If a happy marriage has given and insures to man peace at home, let there be no dread of the caprices of chance; his happiness is sheltered from the strokes of fortune. A wife gentle and affectionate, sensible and virtuous, will fill his whole heart and leave no room for sadness. What will he care for the loss of property when he possesses this treasure? Is not his house sufficiently magnificent as long as she commands respect to it—splendid enough, as long as her presence adorns it? A cottage where virtue dwells, is far superior to a palace; it becomes a temple.

AN ANSWER.—Mr. Whiteside, the barrister, cross-examining a witness in Dublin somewhat rudely, asked him if he had never been before a police court? "Yes," said he, "I was fined for an assault. A barrister so annoyed me by cross-examination that I knocked him down when he came out of court."

"I WONDER what makes my eyes so weak?" said a loafer to a gentleman.

"Why, they are in a weak place," returned the latter.

RHYME IS NOT ALWAYS POETRY.—The *N. O. Delta* says: "Mrs. Mary White, last Tuesday night, became extremely tight, and engaged in a fight, by punching the gourd of her too-loving lord with a piece of board. The neighbors all round were disturbed by the sound, and could not think of sleeping a wink, until the police came, and the turbulent dame was taken to jail, and not giving bail, poor Mrs. White was locked up for the night. She acknowledged the corn of taking a horn, and asked his honor to take pity upon her, and she solemnly swore, she's do so no more. The Recorder heard her tale, and told her not to fail, to go immediately home, and in all time to come to leave off drinking rum, and conduct herself good, as all women should.

SURGEONS are the angels of this world—they are constantly redressing injuries.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS.

WE find that by using such good paper, our volume of 832 pages will be quite large to bind, and especially large for those who wish to stitch their paper together with an index, without being at the expense of binding. To obviate this, we have concluded to be at the expense and trouble of making out an extra index with No. 26, so as to form a complete volume of the first 26 numbers. The index for the next 26 numbers will be given at the end of the year, or with No. 52. This arrangement will make it convenient for all, as the 52 numbers can be stitched or bound in two volumes with an index for each, or in one volume with the double index at the close.

We hope all will preserve their numbers, for there are many single articles each of which will be worth the price of the volume, for future reference. When the paper arrives from the post-office, a good plan is to see that it is properly folded, and then pin or sew it through the middle and cut open the leaves. It is very easy to stitch 26 numbers together. To do this, arrange them in regular order, and with an awl punch several holes about one-fourth of an inch from the back, and through these run a strong thread two or three times with a darning-needle, and the work is done. We have scores of volumes of papers, pamphlets, and addresses, thus prepared, which serve all the purposes of a bound volume, and occupy less room in storing and carrying. We would, however, prefer to see volumes of agricultural papers neatly bound and laid upon the book-shelves or tables of farmers. They are much better and more appropriate ornaments, than gilded volumes of trashy magazines or novels.

ONE WORD MORE.—We thank our friends for the liberal aid they have afforded us in extending the circulation of the *Agriculturist*. Our list has increased beyond our expectation, and we are daily encouraged to labor with the utmost diligence, to make our paper worthy of the confidence and admiration of our largely increasing list of readers. Our reliance for the continuance and increase of our list is upon those who are already readers. As stated above, we now divide the year so as to give either one or two *complete* volumes of the 52 numbers. Number 27 begins the second volume, or half of the year. We respectfully request all our present subscribers to make a little exertion at this time, and each send us on at least one new name. If you cannot get your neighbors to send on for a year, ask them to try the paper for six months, as in that time they will get a complete volume.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have several communications on hand which we will look over as soon as we have time, and some of them will be published. It is no trifling labor to prepare for the printer many communications which we receive. Some are written so closely that there is not room to put in corrections, without rewriting the whole. We cheerfully prepare articles, unless there is manifest *want of care* on the part of the writer. If he does as well as he can, we make all needful changes and corrections.

As most writers doubtless wish to improve their own style, we suggest to them to keep an exact copy of their communications, and then compare this copy with the printed sheet. They may often learn something in this way.

We are not anxious to receive original poetry. We have little space for rhyme, and we have good selections enough to last us a year at least. Good poetry, however, will not be rejected; but we advise all who attempt to write in verse to remember, that good *rhyme* does not constitute *good poetry;* on the contrary, some of the best *poetry* we have ever seen does not "*rhyme*" at all, while some of the best *rhyme* contains not a single *poetic* sentiment.

Markets.

REMARKS.—Flour has advanced the past week full 50 cents per bbl. on the average. Corn 6 cents per bushel. Provisions a trifle less.

Cotton has fallen the past week from ½ to ¼ of a cent per lb., notwithstanding the fact of a deficiency of 400,000 bales compared with the previous year's crop. This depression in the market is due to the war in Europe. Rice is firmer. Sugar and Tobacco no change.

The weather continued rainy till the 4th inst., when it cleared off cold for the season. To-day (8th) it is warmer, but the ground is still very wet and cold, and the drier soils only fit for planting.

Money continues as dear as ever, and as difficult to be obtained.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

Wholesale prices of the more important Vegetables, Fruits, &c., at the principle New-York Markets.

In our weekly reports we give the prices which producers actually get, and *not* the prices at which produce is sold *from* the market.

Saturday, May 6, 1854.

The price of Vegetables is about the same as last week's report, but must fall off before long, for Potatoes especially. The heavy rains of last week prevented large quantities of produce from getting to market. Probably before this paper reaches our subscribers, the prices will be lower than we have to report them this week, as large quantities are expected by way of canal. There is but very little fruit in market at present, and of no extra quality.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes, Mercers, $4@$4 25 ℔ bbl.; Carters, ditto; Early Junes, $3 50@$4; Common, $3@$3 25; Onions white, ℔ bbl., $3 50; red, $2 25; yellow, $2 50; Turnips, yellow, ℔ bbl., $3; white, $2 50; Beets, ℔ bbl., $3; Parsneps, ℔ bbl., $3; Carrots, $3; Spinach, ℔ bbl., $2; Rape Sprouts, ℔ bbl., $1 50; Asparagus, ℔ doz. bunches, $3 and $4; Lettuce, ℔ doz.; 25c.@75c.; Leeks, ℔ doz., 75c.; Cheroot Onions, ℔ doz., 50c.; Bermuda Potatoes, new, ℔ bbl., $6.

FRUITS.—Apples, Russets, ℔ bbl., $4 50@$5. Some very few Red apples are worth $6 ℔ bbl.

Maple Sugar, per lb., 10@11c.; Bermuda Tomatoes, per box, $1 25.

New Butter, ℔ lb., 23@26c.; Old, 14@15c.; Fresh Eggs, ℔ doz., 17c.; Ohio Eggs, 16@16½c.

NEW-YORK CATTLE MARKET.

Monday, May 8, 1854.

THE numbers in market to-day were considerably above last week's report. The day was very pleasant, and the sales rather slow. Many of the butchers were determined not to pay the prices that cattle were held at, which was about the same as last week. The majority of the cattle in the yards were very good. There was one lot of 10 from Kentucky, owned by ALEXANDER ROWAN; 5 of them were raised by HENRY CLAY, and were very nice indeed. They were held at 14c. per lb., and the owner not being able to obtain that price, they were put back in the stable.

Prices ranged from 9@12c. per pound.

Washington Yards, Forty-fourth street.

A. M. ALLERTON, Proprietor.

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.		IN MARKET TO-DAY
Beeves,	2,880	2,716
Swine,	2,143	1,500
Cows	11	
Sheep,	52	
Veals,	205	

CHAMBERLIN'S, Robinson street.

RECEIVED DURING THE WEEK.		IN MARKET TO-DAY.
Beeves,	200	
Sheep,	3,000	700
Veals,	100	
Cows and Calves,	100	

BROWNING'S, Sixth street.

Beeves,	27	
Cows,	78	
Sheep,	3,077	700

O'BRIEN'S, Sixth street.

Beeves,	117	
Cows,	115	

The following were the prices obtained at CHAMBERLIN'S: Beeves, 9@12½c. ℔ lb.; Cows, $30@$60; Sheep, $4@$9 per head; Veals, 4c.@5c.@6c. ℔ lb.

PRICES CURRENT.

Produce, Groceries, Provisions, Lumber, &c.

Ashes.
Pot, 1st sort, 1853 ℔ 100 lbs. 5 87½@ 6 06
Pearl, 1st sort, 1852 6 62½@ — —

Beeswax.
American Yellow ℔ lb. — 29 @ 30

Bristles.
American, Gray and White — 40 @ — 45

Coal.
Liverpool Orrel ℔ chaldron, 10 50 @ 11 —
Scotch — — @ — —
Sidney 7 75 @ 50
Pictou 8 50 @ —
Anthracite ℔ 2,000 lb. 6 — @ 6 50

Cotton.

	Upland.	*Florida.*	*Mobile.*	*N.O. & Texas.*
Ordinary	8	8	8	8
Middling	9¼	9¼	9¼	9¼
Middling Fair,	10⅛	10⅛	10⅛	11
Fair	11	11¼	11⅜	12¼

Cotton Bagging.
Gunny Cloth ℔ yard, — 12½@13 —
American Kentucky — — @ — —
Dundee — — @ — —

Coffee.
Java, White ℔ lb. — 14 @ — 14¼
Mocha — 13½@ — 14
Brazil — 10½@ — 12
Maracaibo — 12 @ — 12½
St. Domingo (cash) — 9¾@ — 10¼

Cordage.
Bale Rope ℔ lb. — 7 @ — 10
Boit Rope — — @ — 20

Corks.
Velvet, Quarts ℔ gro. — 35 @ — 45
Velvet, Pints — 20 @ — 28
Phials — 4 @ — 16

Feathers.
Live Geese, prime ℔ lb. — 47 @ — 49

Flax.
Jersey ℔ lb. — 8 @ — 9

Flour and Meal.
Sour ℔ bbl. 7 50 @ 7 75
Superfine No. 2 7 — @ 7 25
State, common brands 7 50 @ 7 62½
State, Straight brand 7 62½@ 7 75
State, favorite brands 7 87½@ 8 —
Western, mixed do. 7 93¾@ 8 —
Michigan and Indiana, Straight do. 8 — @ 8 18¾
Michigan, fancy brands 8 25 @ 8 37½
Ohio, common to good brands 8 — @ 8 31¼
Ohio, round hoop, common 8 — @ 8 12½
Ohio, fancy brands 8 31¼@ 8 50
Ohio, extra brands 8 62½@ 9 62½
Michigan and Indiana, extra do. 8 37½@ 9 37½
Genesee, fancy brands 9 — @ 9 12½
Genesee, extra brands 9 25 @ 10 50
Canada, (in bond) 7 75 @ 7 81¼
Brandywine 8 75 @ 8 81¼
Georgetown 8 75 @ 8 81¼
Petersburgh City 8 75 @ 8 81¼
Richmond Country 8 72½@ 8 75
Alexandria 8 72½@ 8 75
Baltimore, Howard Street 8 72½@ 8 75
Rye Flour 4 68¾@ 4 75
Corn Meal, Jersey 3 62½@ 3 75
Corn Meal, Brandywine 4 — @ 5 —
Corn Meal, Brandywine ℔ punch. 19 — @ —

Grain.
Wheat, White Genesee ℔ bush. 2 20 @ 2 32
Wheat, do., Canada (in bond) 1 90 @ 1 95
Wheat, Southern, White 1 95 @ 2 05
Wheat, Ohio, White 1 90 @ 2 05
Wheat, Michigan, White 2 10 @ 2 15
Wheat, Mixed Western 1 95 @ 2 00
Wheat, Western Red 1 80 @ 1 95
Rye, Northern 1 12½@ —
Corn, Unsound — — @ — 85
Corn, Round Yellow — 82 @ — 83
Corn, Round White — 82 @ — 84
Corn, Southern White — 82 @ — 85
Corn, Southern Yellow — 85 @ — 90
Corn, Southern Mixed — 80 @ — —
Corn, Western Mixed — 86 @ — 87
Corn, Western Yellow — — @ — —
Barley — 95 @ 1 08
Oats, River and Canal — 49 @ — 51
Oats, New-Jersey — 46 @ — 47
Oats, Western — 53 @ — 54
Oats, Penna — 47 @ — 49
Oats, Southern — 42 @ — 45
Peas, Black-eyed ℔ 2 bush. 2 75 @ 2 87½
Peas, Canada bush. 1 18¾@ —
Beans, White 1 50 @ 1 62½

Hair.
Rio Grande, Mixed ℔ lb. — 23 @ — 23¼
Buenos Ayres, Mixed — 21 @ — 23

Hay, FOR SHIPPING:
North River, in bales ℔ 100 lbs. — 87½@ — 90

Hemp.
Russia, clean ℔ ton. 285 — @ 320 —
Russia, Outshot — — @ — —
Manilla ℔ lb. — 13¾@ — —
Sisal — 10 @ — —
Sunn — 5¾@ — —
Italian ℔ ton, 240 — @ — —
Jute 120 — @ 125
American, Dew-rotted 195 — @ 200 —
American, do., Dressed 210 — @ 260 —
American, Water-rotted — — @ — —

Hops.
1853 ℔ lb. — 40 @ — 44
1852 — 38 @ — 40

Lime.
Rockland, Common ℔ bbl. — — @ 1 13

Lumber.

	WHOLESALE PRICES.
Timber, White Pine ℔ cubic ft.	— 18 @ — 22
Timber, Oak	— 25 @ — 30
Timber, Grand Island, W. O	— 35 @ — 38
Timber, Geo. Yel. Pine (by cargo)	— 18 @ — 22
	YARD SELLING PRICES
Timber, Oak Scantling ℔ M. ft.	30 — @ 40 —
Timber, or Beams, Eastern	17 50 @ 18 75
Plank, Geo. Pine, Worked	— — @ 35 —
Plank, Geo. Pine, Unworked	20 — @ 25 —
Plank and Boards, N. R. Clear	37 50 @ 40 —
Plank and Boards, N. R. 2d qual.	30 — @ 35 —
Boards, North River, Box	16 — @ 17 —
Boards, Albany Pine ℔ pce.	— 16 @ — 22
Boards, City Worked	— 22 @ — 24
Boards, do. narrow, clear ceiling	— 25 @ — —
Plank, do., narrow, clear flooring	— 25 @ — —
Plank, Albany Pine	— 26 @ — 32
Plank, City Worked	— 26 @ — 32
Plank, Albany Spruce	— 18 @ — 20
Plank, Spruce, City Worked	— 22 @ — 24
Shingles, Pine, sawed ℔ bunch,	2 25 @ 2 50
Shingles, Pine, split and shaved	2 75 @ 3 —
Shingles, Cedar, 3 ft. 1st qual. ℔ M.	24 — @ 28 —
Shingles, Cedar, 3 ft. 2d quality	— 22 @ — 25 —
Shingles, Cedar, 2 ft. 1st quality	— 19 @ — 21 —
Shingles, Cedar, 2 ft. 2d quality	— 17 @ — 18 —
Shingles, Company, 3 ft	— 32 @ — —
Shingles, Cypress, 2 ft	— — @ — 16 —
Shingles, Cypress, 3 ft	— — @ — 22 —
Staves, White Oak, Pipe	— 65 @ — —
Staves, White Oak, Hhd	— 52 @ — —
Staves, White Oak, Bbl	— 40 @ — —
Staves, Red Oak, Hhd	— 38 @ — 35 —
Heading, White Oak	— 60 @ — —

Molasses.
New-Orleans ℔ gall. — 27 @ — —
Porto Rico — 23 @ — 30
Cuba Muscovado — 25 @ — 27
Trinidad Cuba — 25 @ — 27
Cardenas, &c. — 23½@ — 24

Nails.
Cut, 4d@60d ℔ lb. — 4½@ — 5
Wrought, 6d@20d — — @ — —

Naval Stores.
Turpentine, Soft, North County, ℔ 280 lb. — — @ 5 75
Turpentine, Wilmington — — @ 5 50
Tar ℔ bbl. 3 — @ 3 50
Pitch, City 2 75 @ — —
Resin, Common, (delivered) 1 75 @ 1 87½
Resin, White ℔ 280 lb. 2 50 @ 4 75
Spirits Turpentine ℔ gall. — 66 @ — 68

Oil Cake.
Thin Oblong, City ℔ ton, — — @ — —
Thick, Round, Country — — @ 28 —
Thin Oblong Country — — @ 33 —

Provisions.
Beef, Mess, Country ℔ bbl. 9 50 @ 12 —
Beef, Prime, Country 6 50 @ 7 25
Beef, Mess, City 13 50 @ 14 —
Beef, Mess, extra 15 50 @ 16 50
Beef, Prime, City 7 25 @ 8 —
Beef, Mess, repacked, Wiscon — — @ 14 —
Beef, Prime, Mess ℔ tce. 15 25 @ — —
Pork, Mess, Western ℔ bbl. 14 37 @ 14 50
Pork, Prime, Western 12 50 @ — —
Pork, Prime, Mess 14 88 @ 16 —
Pork, Clear, Western — — @ 16 50
Lard, Ohio, Prime, in barrels ℔ lb. — 10½@ — —
Hams, Pickled, — 8¾@ — 9
Hams, Dry Salted — — @ — 8¾
Shoulders, Pickled — 6¾@ — —
Shoulders, Dry Salted — — @ — 6¾
Beef Hams, in Pickle ℔ bbl. 13 — @ 16 50
Beef, Smoked ℔ lb. — 9 @ — 9¾
Butter, Orange County — 26 @ — 28
Butter, Ohio — 12 @ — 15
Butter, New-York State Dairies — 20 @ — 25
Butter, Canada — 12 @ — 15
Butter, other Foreign, (in bond,) — — @ — —
Cheese, fair to prime — 10 @ — 12

Plaster Paris.
Blue Nova Scotia ℔ ton, 3 50 @ 3 75
White Nova Scotia 3 50 @ 3 62½

Salt.
Turks Island ℔ bush. — — @ — 48
St. Martin's — — @ — —
Liverpool, Ground ℔ sack, 1 10 @ 1 12½
Liverpool, Fine 1 45 @ 1 50
Liverpool, Fine, Ashton's 1 72½@ 1 75

Saltpetre.
Refined ℔ — 6¾@ — 8
Crude, East India — 7 @ — 7¾
Nitrate Soda — 5 @ — 5¾

Seeds.
Clover ℔ lb. — 10 @ — 11¾
Timothy, Mowed ℔ tce. 14 — @ 17 —
Timothy, Reaped 17 — @ 20 —
Flax, American, Rough ℔ bush. — @ — —
Linseed, Calcutta — @ — —

Sugar.
St. Croix ℔ lb. — — @ — —
New-Orleans — 4 @ — 6¾
Cuba Muscovado — 4¾@ — 6
Porto Rico — 4¾@ — 6¾
Havana, White — 7¾@ — 8
Havana, Brown and Yellow — 5 @ — 7¾
Stuart's, Double-Refined, Loaf — 9¾@ — —
do. do. do. Crushed (Cash) — 9¾@ — —
do. do. do. Ground (Cash) — 8¾@ — —
do. (A) Crushed (Cash) — 9 @ — —
do. 2d quality, Crushed none.
Manilla — 5¾@ — —
Brazil White — 6¾@ — —
Brazil, Brown — 5 @ — 7

Tobacco.			
Virginia	₩ lb.	— —	@ — —
Kentucky		— 7	@ — 10
Mason County		— 6½	@ — 11
Maryland		— —	@ — —
St. Domingo		— 12	@ — 18
Cuba		— 18½	@ — 23½
Yara		— 40	@ — 45
Havana, Fillers and Wrappers		— 25	@ 1 —
Florida Wrappers		— 15	@ — 60
Connecticut Seed Leaf		— 6	@ — 20
Pennsylvania Seed Leaf		— 5½	@ — 15
Wool.			
American, Saxony Fleece	₩ lb.	— 50	@ — 55
American, Full-blood Merino		— 46	@ — 48
American ¼ and ¼ Merino		— 42	@ — 45
American, Native and ¼ Merino		— 36	@ — 28
Extra, Pulled		— 42	@ — 48
Superfine, Pulled		— 39	@ — 41
No. 1. Pulled		— 33	@ — 37

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TERMS—(Invariably cash before insertion.)

Ten cents per line for each insertion.

Advertisements standing one month one-fourth less.

Advertisements standing three months one-third less.

Ten words make a line.

No advertisement counted at less than ten lines.

A CARD.—The subscriber wishes to inform his friends that his connection with the "Horticulturist" has ceased, according to mutual agreement with the publisher. My name having been announced in the March number, my discontinuance should have also been announced, as requested, in the May issue. R. ROBINSON SCOTT.
Rosedale Nurseries, Philad., Pa.,
May 1st, 1854. 35*

SHETLAND PONIES.—WANTED A GOOD FINE PAIR OF Shetland Ponies—One a stallion, the other a mare.
35-37 Inquire at 189 Water street.

WILD TURKEYS.—TWO FIRST-RATE TURKEY COCKS of this breed. [35-36] Apply at 191 Water street.

WILD MEXICAN POTATOES.—These are raised from seed brought from Mexico three years ago. They boil dry and mealy, and are highly lauded for the table by those who have used them. They are as early as the Kidney, and the rot has not yet appeared among them. R. L. ALLEN,
35-37 189 and 191 Water st.

THE WAR IN EUROPE! A MAP FOR THE TIMES!—WE have just issued a MAP of the countries now, or likely to be, involved in the European War. It has been very favorably noticed by the Press, and truly is the desideratum of the present day.

On receipt of FIFTY CENTS, we will send, free of postage, a copy in pocket form, enclosed in muslin cover.
ENSIGN, BRIDGMAN & FANNING,
May 1st, 1854. Map Publishers and Mounters
34-35* 156 William st., New-York City.

MONEY FOUND.—A SUM OF MONEY FOUND IN THE seed store, No. 187 Water street, which will be paid to any claimant who can prove the property and date of its loss.
R. L. ALLEN.

KETCHUM'S IMPROVED MOWING MACHINE WITH entire change of gear. The only successful mower now known.

Ketchum's IMPROVED Machine, which we are building for the harvest of '54, was thoroughly tested last season, and the advantages gained by our change of Gear are in all respects as we designed, viz: durability, convenience and ease of action. The shafts now have bearings at both ends, which overcomes all cramping and cutting away of boxes. A counter balance is attached to the crank shaft, which gives it a steady and uniform motion. Each Machine can be thrown out of gear; there is great convenience in getting at each and every nut, all of them being on UPPER SIDE OF THE FRAME; oil cups are attached to all the bearings, which, by the use of a wad of cotton, will hold oil for a long time, as well as protect the bearings from dust, grit, &c.; the finger bar is lined with iron its full width, which protects it from wear.

These and various other additions for strength, durability, &c., makes them the most simple and perfect agricultural implement in use. They weigh about 750 lbs. each, and can easily be carried in a one-horse wagon.

They will cut ALL KINDS OF GRASS, and operate well on uneven or rolling lands, or where there are dead furrows. This Machine took the highest award, with SPECIAL APPROBATION, at the World's Fair it also received, during last season, one silver and four gold medals, and various other flattering and substantial testimonials of approval. We have spared neither pains nor money to make them deserving of public favor, and hope to be able the coming season to supply the great and increasing demand.

We take this occasion to caution farmers against buying UNTRIED Mowers, if they do (as was the case with many last year) they incur loss, vexation and disapointment.

☞ In all cases where Extras are wanted, be sure to give us THE NUMBER OF YOUR MACHINE.

(WARRANTY:) That said Machines are capable of cutting and spreading, with one span of horses and driver, from ten to fifteen acres per day of ANY KIND OF GRASS, and do it as well as is done with a scythe by the best of mowers.

All orders filled by the subscribers. Office and Shop, corner of Chicago street and Hamburgh Canal, near the Eastern R. R. Depot, in Buffalo N. Y. HOWARD & CO.,
Manufacturers and Proprietors,

For Sale by R. L. ALLEN, 189 Water street, N. Y.

The Mower is also manufactured by Ruggles, Nourse, Mason & Co., at Worcester, Mass, for the New-England States. By Seymour, Morgan & Co., Brockport, N. Y., for Illinois, Iowa and Michigan. By Warder & Brokaw, Springfield, O., for Ohio and Kentucky. 31-39

BERKSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE, AND SUFFOLK SWINE.

FOR SALE—THE ENTIRE STOCK OF SWINE NOW owned by SAMUEL LOVE, consisting of Berkshire, Lincolnshire, and Suffolk breeds of all sizes. This stock is worthy the attention of Farmers and others, who wish to procure the above breeds. The above swine have a good reputation, and have received the principal prizes at the exhibitions of the American Institute.

Gentlemen living at a distance can have them boxed and shipped from New-York.

Refer to A. B. ALLEN, editor of this paper, or to the Managers of the American Institute.

Letters addressed to A. B. Allen, will meet with immediate attention. SAMUEL LOVE,
33-40 Corner of 53d Street and 6th Avenue, New-York.

POUDRETTE.

THE LODI MANUFACTURING COMPANY OFFER their Poudrette for sale in lots to suit purchasers, from a single barrel up to 4000 barrels, at their usual rates, $1 50 per barrel for any quantity over seven barrels, delivered on board of vessel in the city of N. York, free of cartage or other charge. When 200 or 300 barrels are taken, a deduction will be made from the above price. That this article has stood the test of fourteen years trial is proof of its efficacy. It is the cheapest and best manure for corn ever produced, and it has the advantage of being useful in small quantities and harmless in large. It is a capital manure for peas, strawberries, &c., and all garden vegetables. Apply by letter or personally to the Lodi Manufacturing Company,
33-38 74 Cortlandt st., New-York.

BOOKS FOR THE FARMERS.

ALL SENT FREE OF POSTAGE.

Furnished by R. L. ALLEN, 189 and 191 Water street.

I. The Cow, Dairy Husbandry, and Cattle Breeding. Price 25 cents.
II. Every Lady her own Flower Gardener. Price 25 cents.
III. The American Kitchen Gardener. Price 25 cents.
IV. The American Rose Culturer. Price 25 cents.
V. Prize Essay on Manures. By S. L. Dana, price 25 cents.
VI. Skinner's Elements of Agriculture.—Price 25 cents.
VII. The Pests of the Farm, with Directions for Extirpation, Price 25 cents,
VIII. Horses—their Varieties, Breeding, Management, &c., Price 25 cents.
IX. The Hive and Honey Bee—their Diseases and Remedies, Price 25 cents.
X. The Hog—its Diseases and Management, Price 25 cents.
XI. The American Bird Fancier—Breeding, Raising, &c., Price 25 cents.
XII. Domestic Fowl and Ornamental Poultry. Price 25 cents.
XIII. Chemistry made Essay for the Use of Farmers, Price 25 cents.
XIV. The American Poultry Yard. The cheapest and best book published. Price $1
XV. The American Field Book of Manures. Embracing all the Fertilizers known, with directions for use. By Browne. Price $1 25.
XVI. Buist's Kitchen Gardener. Price 75 cents.
XVII. Storkhort's Chemical Field Lectures. Price $1.
XVIII. Wilson on the Cultivation of Flax. Price 25 cents.
XIX. The Farmer's Cyclopedia. By Blake. Price $1 25.
XX. Allen's Rural Architecture. Price $1 25.
XXI. Phelps' Bee Keeper's Chart. Illustrated. Price 25 cents.
XXII. Johnston's Lectures of Practical Agriculture. Paper, price 50 cents.
XXIII. Johnston's Agricultural Chemistry. Price $1 25.
XXIV. Johnston's Elements of Agricultural Chemistry and Geology. Price $1.
XXV. Randall's Sheep Husbandry. Price $1 25.
XXVI. Miner's American Bee Keeper's Manuel. Price $1.
XXVII. Dodd's American Cattle Doctor. Complete. Price $1.
XXVIII. Fessenden's Complete Farmer and Gardener. 1 vol. Price $1 25.
XXIX. Allen's Treatise on the Culture of the Grape. Price $1.
XXX. Youatt on the Breeds and Management of Sheep.—Price 75 cents.
XXXI. Youatt on the Hog. Complete. Price 60 cents.
XXXIII. Youatt and Martin on Cattle. By. Stevens.—Price $1 25.
XXXIV. The Shepherd's own Book. Edited by Youatt, Skinner and Randall. Price $2.
XXXV. Stephens' Book of the Farm; or Farmer's Guide.—Edited by Skinner. Price $4.
XXXVI. Allen's American Farm Book. Price $1.
XXXVII. The American Florists' Guide. Price 75 cents.
XXXVIII. The Cottage and Farm Bee-keeper. Price 50 cents.
XXXIX. Hoare on the Culture of the Grape. Price 50 cents.
XL. Country Dwellings; or the American Architect. Price $6.
XLI. Lindley's Guide to the Orchard. Price $1 25.
XLII. Gunn's Domestic Medicine. A book for every married man and woman. Price $3.
XLIII. Nash's Progressive Farmer. A book for every boy in the country. Price 50 cents.
XLIV. Allen's Diseases of Domestic Animals. Price 75 cents.
XLV. Saxton's Rural Hand-books. 2 vols. Price $2 50.
XLVI. Beattie's Southern Agriculture. Price $1.
XLVII. Smith's Landscape Gardening. Containing Hints on arranging Parks, Pleasure Grounds, &c., &c. Edited by Lewis F. Allen. Price $1 25.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED.

XLVIII. The Farmer's Land Measurer; or Pocket Companion. Price 50 cents.
XLIX. Buist's American Flower Garden Directory. Price $1 25.
L. The American Fruit Grower's Guide in Orchard and Garden. Being the most complete book on the subject ever published.

THE AMERICAN FLOWER GARDEN DIRECTORY.—Containing practical directions for the culture of plants in the Flower Garden, Hot House, Green House, Rooms or Parlor windows, for every month in the year; a description of the plants most desirable in each; the nature of the soil and situation best adapted to their growth; the proper season for transplanting, &c., &c., with instructions for erecting a Hot House, Green House and laying out a Flower Garden—the whole adapted to either large or small gardens, with instructions for preparing the soil, propagating, planting, pruning, training and fruiting the Grape Vine, with descriptions of the best sorts for cultivating in the open air. By Robert Buist, Nurseryman and Seed Grower. Price, $1,25

Everybody His Own Flower Gardener	25
American Rose Culturist	25
American Florist's Guide	75
Breck's Book of Flowers	75
Bridgman's Florist's Guide	50
Buist's Kitchen Gardener	75
Fessenden's American Kitchen Gardener	25
Browne's Field Book of Manures, $1,25. ☞ Sent free of postage.	

Orders for any of the above books will be filled at the prices named, and if required, will be sent by mail, [post paid,] by
31-tf R. L. ALLEN, 189 and 191 Water st.

KETCHUM'S MOWING MACHINE.

ALSO VARIOUS REAPING AND MOWING MACHINES, combining all the latest improvements.
NEW-YORK AGRICULTURAL WAREHOUSE & SEED STORE, 189 and 191 Water Street. R. L. ALLEN.
33tf.

A GOOD FLORIST WANTED—APPLY TO DR. E. Parsons, Savannah, Georgia, or to the editor of this paper.
33-35.

BERKSHIRE SWINE.

WANTED—TWO FEMALES, SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS old. They must be of good size, fine and pure bred. Please state lowest price. A. B. ALLEN, 189 Water st.
33-38.

SEACOR MAMMOTH BLACKBERRY, (BY SOME CALLED THE LAWTON BLACKBERRY.)—LEWIS A. SEACOR, the first discoverer and propagator of this rare and valuable fruit, respectfully informs the public, that although having *thus far* lost the honor of giving *name* to his fruit, yet he has on hand about one hundred fine plants of the original stock, from which others have chiefly been derived. These plants he will warrant of superior quality, and will sell them at $5 per dozen, (which is half the price asked by those who procured their original plants of him at a low price.)
32-35* LEWIS A. SEACOR, New-Rochell, N.Y.

SCARIFIERS FOR OLD MEADOWS.—AN INVALUABLE machine for ousting moss and the old fog from hide-bound meadows and renovating their grasses. To be drawn by one or more horses. [31-tf.] R. L. ALLEN, 191 Water street.

PORTABLE FORGES AND BELLOWS.

QUEEN'S PATENT.) THE BEST Forge in the market for Blacksmith's work, Boiler Makers, Mining, Quarrying, Shipping, Plantations, Contractors on Railroads and Public Works, Coppersmiths, Gas Fitters, &c., &c. Also an improved PORTABLE MELTING FURNACH for Jewellers, Dentists, Chemists, &c., both of which are constructed with sliding doors to protect the fire from wind and rain when used out of doors, and for perfect safety and free escape of smoke indoors. They are compact for shipping. Circulars, with particulars and prices, will be forwarded upon application. Cast Iron Columns for buildings constantly on hand. The above forge has been awarded three Silver Medals by the American Institute, New-York, and the highest premium (Diplomas and Bronze Medals) at all other Fairs wherever exhibited. FREDERICK P. FLAGLER,
31-57 Sole Manufacturer, 210 Water st., N.Y.

GENUINE SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

THE SUBSCRIBER HAS NOW ON HAND, AND IS CONstantly manufacturing at his works in MIDDLETOWN, CONN., SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME, which he warrants free from any adulteration, and equal, if not superior to any in the market. It is made of *bones*, prepared in the most approved manner, put up in substantial bags for transportation, and is furnished promptly to order, or at the works.

He also manufactures and has constantly on hand for the market, BONE DUST of a superior quality.

These fertilizers have been thoroughly tested by careful and experienced agriculturists in this vicinity, and have given general satisfaction. ANDREW COE,
March 13, 1854. [28-40.] Middletown, Ct.

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A GENERAL LIST OF FRESH GARDEN SEEDS, imported and raised for R. L. ALLEN, 189 and 191 Water street.

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